

soner exhibited great concern as to his wife and family, stating that his children, aged nine, seven, and four years, were all down with scarlet fever, and he had taken the milk to give to them. He made further statements showing that the Asylums Board had been expected to remove the children, but had not done so; that although he shared the one room with the sick children and his wife who was nursing them, yet he had gone about day by day looking for work, as there was no food in the home, and that even that morning, after a night spent among the fever-stricken patients, he had come out with the jug to get them some milk. The police had not inquired as to the illness, and had locked the prisoner up with others in the cell, brought him to court with other prisoners, and now he has gone to Pentonville Prison reeking, as he says, with fever infection.

It is to be hoped that ere these poor little starving fever-stricken children have been conveyed to the Hospital, where they can obtain skilled care and food. It seems a monstrous thing to commit a *father* to prison for a month on such a charge; rather would it not be more just to punish those public authorities who are responsible for the care and Nursing of the destitute sick, and who fail to perform their duty. It is horrible that in this city of fabulous wealth, men and women must be sent to jail because they steal milk rather than see their little ones die of fever and starvation.

THE HON. SYDNEY HOLLAND, Chairman of the Poplar Hospital for Accidents, writes a letter to the *Times*, pleading for £3,000 to build an isolation block. He says:—

"May I ask your readers to realise the miserable dilemma we find ourselves in to-day at the Poplar Hospital for Accidents? The hospital is full of accident cases. Scarlet fever has now broken out in the wards. We have already six cases. We have no isolation wards or means of isolating patients or nurses. The Metropolitan Asylums Board have replied to our telegrams that their hospitals are full, and they cannot take the patients. We have had to choose, therefore, between running the risk of the fever spreading still further amongst the patients, and so rendering the hospital's work as an accident hospital useless till the fever cases are all cured—and it must be remembered that this risk is a serious one, as many of the patients are necessarily very weak and ill—we have had to choose between this, or sending the fever patients back to their own homes. This latter we have been compelled to do. And a brutal and cruel necessity it is. We are sending them to homes where neither their injuries nor their fever can be properly nursed, tended, or isolated, and where there are others to catch and spread the fever. Three of the patients are children."

We sincerely hope that this appeal will meet with a liberal response upon the part of the public.

MR. W. H. HUGHES, Secretary to the Cancer Hospital (Free), Fulham Road, writes to the press:—

"The committee of this Hospital recently decided to adopt the electric light; an estimate was in due course accepted and the work commenced. On Saturday last a man (who had evidently watched the workmen depart) called shortly after 1 o'clock, stating he had come to meet the foreman and to arrange where the switches were to be fixed. He was taken all over the building by the porter (the workmen having left), and finally said he would wait a little while on the chance of the foreman returning to meet him. The porter, having other duties to perform, allowed him to remain in the entrance-hall. The man watched his opportunity, and quickly returned to the Nurses' dormitories at the top of the building, found one of the servants there, told her he had come to measure in connection with the electric lighting, and thus again gained access to the bedrooms—this time alone. In due course he returned, told the porter he had got all the measurements required, and should not wait any longer. He took with him three watches, several articles of jewelry, and all the money he could find from four bedrooms. Needless to say, he had nothing whatever to do with the electric lighting of the Hospital, although by the careful measurements which he took, and the marks which he put on the walls to show where the switches were to be, he effectually gulled our officials. I think it is desirable that publicity should be given to this in order to put others on their guard should this gentleman contemplate a similar experiment elsewhere."

It is always interesting to ourselves—and from the number of appreciative letters we receive from our readers on the subject we gather it is equally so to them—to watch the progress of Nursing ethics on the other side of the Atlantic. Some very progressive views on how trained Nurses can help themselves and others in their profession are given in the correspondence column of the last number of the *Trained Nurse*.

A Nurse correspondent says:—

"Almost every (American) Nurse knows ere this that in Boston there has been formed an Association called 'The Graduate Nurses' Association,' consisting of members who have diplomas to show from which school they have graduated. A large number (of whom I am one) find fault with the present directory and its method of carrying on the work, yet do nothing to try and be independent of it. Why should not these nurses have a directory of their own, known as 'The Graduate Nurses' Directory,' where doctors, as well as private individuals, will know that they are always getting a genuine article, and not perhaps some one who has had '*experience*'? I have thought this matter over very carefully, and as far as I can see there is nothing to prevent it but the Nurses' own

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