

Nurse is heartrending, and surely arrangements could be made by which a full supply of Nurses could be drafted into the town and thus help the poor people in their distress.

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"There is an epidemic of small-pox in Gloucester of a very bad type, and the Nurses who are looking after the cases have their hands full. There seems to be insufficient Hospital accommodation, so that the Nurses visit the patients in their own homes and attend to them as best they can. When on their rounds the Nurses wear a red bow in their bonnets in order that people may know what they are Nursing and avoid them. One Nurse writes that they have seventy cases on the books, that since her arrival on the previous Saturday there is not one house in which there has not been a death. There have been sixteen deaths in all during this time. She describes one house which she visited on Sunday, in which one child who died on the previous Thursday was in his coffin, and another child was lying dead. Two other children and the father were down with small-pox all in one room, the mother had it first, and there was no one but herself to look after the others. The Nurse adds: 'It is heart-aching to go into the houses and see such trouble.' A later letter says that the Nurses are still very busy, and that they have one hundred cases on their books. There was a case on Saturday which the Nurses were asked to attend; when one went she found a woman dying in one room, and four children all down with small-pox in a little back room. The poor little children were not even undressed, they had not a blanket on them, and there are two more children and a father in the house. 'Before we could do anything we had to get some bedding and nightdresses for the poor little children, but the mother died very soon after we got there.' I am afraid there is not much improvement yet, only that I think there are not quite so many deaths.'

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As a mathematical problem it would be interesting to know how many deaths it takes to effect a reform in a Workhouse Infirmary? The Nursing arrangements in so many of these Institutions are glaringly insufficient, but, frequently no remedies are proposed until a patient is allowed to jump out of a window, or to be scalded to death as happened recently at the Wolverhampton Infirmary. Our space has been so fully taken up that we have not before had an opportunity of dealing with this case, but it is too important to omit, as it is one of the many proofs which show that Workhouse Infirmary reform is imperative.

The evidence showed that the deceased, a paralytic, was bathed by a "wardsman"—who was himself a pauper inmate—and the water used was so hot that when the patient was put into the bath he screamed out, and died in great agony from shock and scalds.

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Jesse Pitt, an inmate of the Workhouse and a wardsman, said he was told by Nurse Stamp to bath the deceased, and was assisted by another wardsman. Nothing was said about the temperature, and witness said he generally put his hand into the water to see if it was "just right." He "never gave it them too hot," but he never used a thermometer. Witness never heard of the thermometer being used when bathing was done. He could not explain how it was that the man was scalded. While witness had been wardsman the Nurse had never been there to prepare the water, and he had never known the temperature of the bath taken by the Nurse.—In reply to the Workhouse Master, he admitted he emptied the bath immediately after taking Lovatt out, and before going to tell the Nurse of what had occurred. There was no opportunity of taking the temperature of the water. Anna Menou, head Nurse, said she knew nothing of the bathing until she found deceased had been scalded. He told her he had been placed in boiling water, and he appeared to be in frightful pain. She applied remedies and questioned Pitt, who said that the water was "a bit hot." The bath was then empty. Witness had not ordered the bath. Witness gave general instructions to the Nurses as to the temperature, and there were thermometers available.—In reply to the Coroner, she said she had made a great many recommendations, but they were taken no notice of, and the Nursing staff was insufficient."

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That the Nursing Staff was insufficient, is proved by the fact that the head Nurse was responsible for six wards containing 66 patients—many of them typhoid cases. *Truth* suggests that the jury would have been almost justified in finding a verdict of manslaughter against the Guardians, since they are directly responsible for the safety and efficient nursing of the paupers under their care.

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Truth, which has recently been dealing considerably with Hospital matters, says:—

"The pauper Nurse again! Only last week I referred to the death which had occurred at Wolverhampton Workhouse through a pauper attendant being entrusted with the bathing of sick and helpless inmates, and now there comes a report of the severe scalding of a child by a pauper Nurse in the Infirmary at Whitchurch Workhouse. In the latter instance the woman confessed to the Guardians that 'she got in a temper, and so she brought some hot water from the boiler and put the child in it.' No doubt proceedings will be taken against the woman for her cruelty, but something

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