

### Legal Matters.

#### A "NURSE" SENTENCED TO THREE MONTHS' HARD LABOUR.

A YOUNG woman named Clara A. Storer, who appeared in the dock in the uniform of a nurse, was last week charged on remand at the Oldham Police Court, before Dr. Platt and Mr. T. Taylor, with a number of larcencies. The prisoner until her arrest was in the employ of the Oldham Nursing Association. The Chief Constable said that two charges were preferred against her at that moment. The first was for stealing a £5 note and a sovereign from the house of Mr. J. S. Liversage Queen's Road, and the second for stealing a gold watch and £2 12s. from the house of Mr. John Dronsfield, Fern Street Coppice. The prisoner had committed robberies at nearly every house she had been at. He read a long list of robberies of money, jewellery, books, and cigars from houses at Birkenhead, Delph, Butler Green, Washbrook, Beeston Hill, etc. The articles stolen were principally watches, rings, sleeve links, studs, and diamonds, nearly all of which had been pawned in Oldham, Salford, and Bradford. The prisoner pleaded guilty, and said she could give no reason or explanation of her conduct. She had been stealing for years. She could not keep her hands from picking and stealing. The chairman, in sentencing the prisoner, said she had abused the confidence placed in her, and had taken advantage of her position as a nurse to practically rifle people's houses. In other words, she was nothing but a common thief, and as such they would have to treat her. In the first case she would be sent to prison for two months, with hard labour, and in the second to one month's imprisonment; in other words, she would be sent to gaol for three months with hard labour.

This case but emphasizes the justice of the demand, now being widely made, for an Act of Parliament requiring the registration of all trained nurses, and, as a consequence of this, of a nursing council, which would exercise disciplinary powers, and remove from the register the names of those who after due investigation are found unworthy to remain upon it. We hope that the public will observe that after Clara Storer has served her three months of hard labour there is nothing to prevent her beginning her career again as a private nurse, on the strength of her former certificates. Surely, for the sake of their own safety, they will see the need of protecting themselves and their property from women of this description.

#### FIFTY POUNDS CLAIMED FOR AMATEUR NURSING ATTENDANCE.

At St. Austell County Court, before his Honour Judge Granger, Jonathan Littleton, of Ranleigh

Road, Mount Charles, St. Austell, recently sought to recover from George Martyn, of High Lanes, Gorran, near St. Austell, £50 for nursing and attending William Rowe, the defendant's uncle, who died worth about £100. Mr. R. Dobell was for the plaintiff, and Mr. Graham for the defendant. The facts of the case are briefly that the defendant's uncle, William Rowe, was a lodger in the plaintiff's house, and paid six shillings a week for his rooms. The deceased man had for a long time suffered from "bad legs," and died in May last. After the funeral the plaintiff produced a stamped document stating, "I, William Rowe, of Ranleigh Road, Mount Charles, St. Austell, do authorize my nephew, George Martyn, to pay the sum of £50 to Jonathan Littleton, of Ranleigh Road, St. Austell, for nursing and attendance, after my decease." The nephew, who was executor to his uncle, refused to recognize this, on the ground that the uncle had often told him and his sister that he should give Littleton £5 for his trouble. Further than this Littleton knew that this was all he was to have, because the matter was discussed with him some days before his uncle's death. It was further stated for the defence by Dr. Stevens and the deceased man's niece that until last November Rowe attended to himself, and that after that, until shortly before his death, district nurses were constantly in attendance. It was admitted that the plaintiff did the work on Sundays, and that latterly, when two dressings a day were necessary, he did the evening dressing. It was also stated that the six shillings a week, the money that Rowe paid for his rooms, was increased to eight shillings, and for the last three weeks of his life to ten shillings. The niece further stated that, a few days before he died, her uncle said in her presence, Littleton also being present, that he intended giving Littleton £5 for his trouble, whereupon the man became angry and said that if he could not have £50 neither he, his wife, nor his daughter would do anything more. This excited and troubled her uncle, who wondered what he should do if left alone. Littleton told the old man about someone in Plymouth who had died, and left the man who attended him £300 and a house, or something of that sort. Upon this the niece went to Dr. Stevens. Dr. Stevens gave evidence that he called about six o'clock on the Monday. The sick man was in a very dazed condition. He could not rivet his attention, or get him to enter into conversation. He was not in a condition to make a cross, or anything else, and he (Dr. Stevens) told the plaintiff that the patient was not fit to transact any business.

It was stated that the document in question was drawn up by a young man in a grocery business, named Alfred Skinner, and, before the deceased had seen it, he and an old man named Sobey signed as having witnessed Rowe's signature. It was then read over twice to the dying man, who, according

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)