

nurse, who has tenderly nursed the patient to the last, will the grief-stricken wife, or mother, receive the counsel that it is unwise to keep the body in the house, that it is bad for other members of the family to sleep in the same room with it, that the funeral should not be delayed, and that it would be wise to remove the body to the public mortuary? She *knows* that the nurse is not indifferent to her feelings; she knows also how good she was to the one who has gone, and that she would not advise anything which was not coincident with respect to him, and therefore though her own prejudices are against it, for the poor are pathetically tenacious of the traditions which in their opinion are honouring to their dead, the necessary sanitary measures are carried out without any sort of friction. The effectiveness of the district nurse as an agent in carrying out sanitary reforms is attracting the attention of both the medical and the lay press, and the *British Medical Journal* goes so far as to assert that this has so considerably influenced the minds of various medical health officers that one medical man goes the length of urging upon corporations and health authorities the employment of trained nurses on their sanitary staffs.

Legal Matters.

ALICE GOUGH, a nurse at the Shoreditch Workhouse, was recently charged at Worship Street, before Mr. Corser, with stealing from the infirmary a blanket, the property of the guardians. Detective Hodson, G Division, gave evidence that he had received information that a blanket had been stolen. Ultimately he found it pledged, in the name of "Goff," in a Hoxton pawnshop. The prisoner, on being questioned, had admitted pledging the blanket, and produced the pawnticket from her purse. On taking possession of the purse, the officer found thirteen other tickets relating to blankets, boots, etc., taken from the infirmary, and ultimately more pawntickets were discovered, some of which related to clothing belonging to another nurse. The prisoner had given way to the morphia habit, and entirely collapsed during the night from want of the drug. She said she had become addicted to the habit in a French hospital, and was now a slave to it. Mr. Corser granted a remand.

We must once more draw attention to the fact that it is imperative that some measures should be taken to protect the public, and to purge the nursing profession, from women of this description. Would medical men recognize, as a member of their profession, and meet in consultation, a practitioner who had owned to committing theft? It is a public danger, and a grave injustice to honourable nurses, that they cannot eliminate such persons from the ranks of their profession.

Injustice of the Glossop Town Council.

WE have for some years pointed out that the deliberate policy of the hon. officers of the Royal British Nurses' Association has been to depreciate the position of nursing, and that the effect of this policy must be most prejudicial to all matrons. We desire now to draw attention to the attack being at present made upon Miss Ellen Warrener, Matron of Wood's Hospital, Glossop, as an instance of the treatment accorded to individual matrons, a method of which we may expect to receive numerous examples as time goes on, if the present line of action in the Royal British Nurses' Association is continued.

On the 28th of July last the following resolution was passed by the Glossop Town Council:—

"That the Matron, Miss Ellen Warrener, be given three months' notice to leave her employment as Matron of the Wood's Hospital, and that she be discharged and cease to be Matron at, and from, the expiration of such notice."

Councillor J. J. Whelan gave notice of an amendment to this resolution, to the effect that it should be rescinded and referred back to the Wood's Hospital Committee for reconsideration. The amendment also contained the following clauses:—

"(2.) That an investigation be held in reference to the charges alleged by the Mayor against the Matron of the Wood's Hospital, and that a committee be appointed by the Council for the purpose of conducting such an investigation.

"(3.) A resolution appointing the members of such a committee.

"(4.) That the chairman of the Wood's Hospital Committee be requested to inform the Council at the meeting on the 8th September, the precise grounds upon which the Matron of the Wood's Hospital is dismissed from office."

We quote from the local press Councillor Whelan's remarks in support of the amendment, which we think will commend themselves to all supporters of justice and fair play.

"Councillor Whelan said he begged to move an amendment, and he wanted them to understand the position in which he approached the subject. He was not in favour of Miss Warrener or anyone else. He did not know Miss Warrener, he had never seen her in his life, and he had never been into Wood's Hospital in his life, hence he spoke without any partiality in any shape or form. His grounds for asking that this matter of Miss Warrener's dismissal be referred back to the Hospital Committee, was for them to try it *de novo*. First, on the ground that a wrong had been done, secondly, on the ground that her accuser, jury and judge were one, that was to say they accused the culprit, passed their verdict, and sentenced that culprit. That was distinctly not in accordance with English

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