

Legal Matters.**ATTEMPTED SUICIDE OF A NURSE.**

JANE ROSS, aged 38, a nurse at the Banstead Fever Hospital was last Saturday charged at the Guildhall Police Court, with attempting to commit suicide. A constable gave evidence that on the previous evening he was called to Broad Street Station, the accused woman having been found upon the platform in an insensible condition. He asked her what was the matter with her, and she said that she had taken some ether to put an end to her sorrows and sufferings. She stated that her husband was in South Africa and had left her with five children. Three of them were in the Epsom Workhouse, and two were staying with a friend at Croydon, whom she paid 10s. a week for their support. The witness took her to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where the doctor said she was suffering from hysteria. She had taken some ether, but not enough to harm her. The constable then took her back to the police station, and asked her what she intended to do if she were discharged. She said: "Throw myself under a train. You don't know how great are my sufferings." A doctor was sent for, and certified that she was "suffering from hysteria, and not fit to be left alone." The matron of the Banstead Fever Hospital stated that she had noticed nothing particular the matter with the accused, though when she left the institution she was downcast. The nurse was remanded for a week, the magistrate saying that this would be for her best interests, in order that she might have the ministrations of the prison chaplain and surgeon.

We must deprecate the too prevalent custom of labelling every malady which is not understood "hysteria," a term always implying a certain amount of contempt for the unfortunate sufferer. Men, even the best of them, are clumsy creatures, and it is difficult for them to understand the nervous organization of a woman, which is more nicely balanced than anything of which they have had practical experience. A woman sorrows, suffers, and endures, until one day the delicate machinery is thrown out of gear, and she becomes temporarily irresponsible. Then a man tramps in, brimming over with healthy life, and with the single contemptuous word "hysteria," disposes of the case. When we have more women doctors, we predict that there will be less "hysteria," and the sufferings of women will be better understood and treated. We sincerely hope this poor nurse will meet with true sympathy when released from Holloway. She needs rest, and care, and peace of mind.

Nursing Echoes.

*** All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



THE United States Congress declared war against Spain on the 25th inst. War is barbarous, but we fear in the present uncivilised state of the nations, it is inevitable. If any nation ever had good reason for war, that nation is the United States. The persecution and misery of the inhabitants of the island of Cuba by an effete European race, incapable of self-government—much less of governing a people thousands of miles across sea—have reached the limits of human endurance, and we heartily wish speedy and complete success to American arms, in their effort to free Cuba from an intolerable and diabolical rule.

LITTLE reliable news is yet available with regard to the arrangements made by either America or Spain, for nursing the wounded, but it is reported that the United States Secretary for War will not permit any amateur women nurses in Cuba. That America has a vast army of highly trained nurses, ready equipped for active service, is satisfactory, and the good Catholic Sisters of Mercy will, no doubt, be the most acceptable attendants on the sick and wounded Spaniards. British nurses are anxious to offer their skilled services to each nation, and we feel sure even if their services are not accepted, that the sympathy for suffering so expressed will be warmly appreciated by the people of both America and Spain.

It is rumoured in New York, but it is not credible, that it has been decided that only male nurses shall be employed in the war, on the ground of unknown dangers in naval warfare and the unhealthy Cuban climate. The heroism of American women in the Civil War is recalled by their daughters, who desire to repeat it, saying that the dangers due to an unhealthy climate form an additional reason for women's ministrations. Several ladies have presented themselves at the enlistment tents, and there is a proposal to form an American contingent of the English Red Cross Society.

THE Countess de Casa Valencia, now staying at the Hotel Belgravia, Victoria-street, S.W., will

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)