

practical experience of the question—and it will be the duty of the delegates to follow closely each paper, and if necessary take part in the discussions. A delegate will also take care to gather as much information as possible, preferably in printed form, so that she will be able to draw up a business-like report of all matters of special interest to the colleagues whom she will represent on this most interesting occasion. Much also can be learnt from social intercourse and quiet enquiry and observation.

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### Annotations.

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#### "IS MY CHEQUE READY?"

Two cases of interest to nurses from a financial point of view, have lately been before Police Magistrates in London. In the first, Mr. M. C. Walshe, described as the proprietor of the Male Nurses (Temperance) Co-operation, and a member of the Marylebone Borough Council, was summoned at Marylebone Police-court for detaining six testimonials and a nursing certificate.

Mr. Freke Palmer, solicitor, who prosecuted, said his client, Mr. George Mackenzie, a male nurse, joined the defendant's association about two years ago, and obtained through the association three situations. Two of them were only for one day, and the third he had held for two years.

For practically that one introduction he had paid the defendant 7s. each week for two years, out of his salary of two guineas a week, representing in all a sum of £38 8s., and when, recently, he resigned from the association the defendant positively refused to deliver up his testimonials and nursing certificate.

Mr. Arthur Newton, for the defence, urged that the complainant had been guilty of dishonourable and mean conduct in severing his connection with the association after obtaining through it an engagement by which he had received £200.

Mr. Curtis-Bennett said in his opinion it was the defendant who had acted dishonourably, and not the complainant. His argument was that, having once secured the complainant employment, he was entitled to 7s. every week from him as long as he lived; in fact, the complainant was his slave. He ordered the docu-

ments to be given up forthwith, and granted the complainant five guineas costs.

In the second case, at the Bloomsbury County Court, before Judge Bacon, the Male and Female Nursing Co-operation sued a Mr. Stickler for the sum of £8 8s. under the following circumstances. Defendant, who was a trained male nurse, was engaged by the manager of the Co-operation as one of its nurses in May, 1898, the defendant agreeing to pay the plaintiff three shillings on each guinea he received from cases which he obtained through their instrumentality, as long as the cases lasted. In June, 1899, defendant was sent to attend to the case of a general in the Army at Westminster, where he was still engaged, and paid the commission due on his fees of £2 2s. a week until May, 1900, since which time he had declined to pay. The agreement was subject to a month's notice, and in April last defendant gave the co-operation a month's notice, and had his testimonials returned to him. His Honour gave judgment for the plaintiffs, and, addressing the defendant, said: "You cannot get out of your liability by giving notice, and you had better not forget that your liability will go on as long as you attend the general."

The one point brought out quite clearly is that members of Co-operations of Male Nurses paid in both instances, double the percentage upon their earnings which female nurses are required to pay, and still we sometimes hear of nurses who grudge the seven-and-a-half per cent. paid on an income provided for them of £100 per annum.

A second point is that what one administrator of the Law considers "slavery," another realises as "your liability," and we are inclined to agree with the Bloomsbury judgment. Once having accepted a case through the office of a co-operation to which a nurse attaches himself, he should either continue to pay his percentage honestly, or give up the case. But that the officials of a co-operation should retain the testimonials of a nurse who has resigned his connection with the institution is quite inexcusable.

Nurses, however, should, in our opinion, show a keener sense of honour in business matters, and also a more lively sense of gratitude to those who work for their interests. Upon entering the office of the institution to which they belong—"Good morning!" savours more of good manners, the result of good feeling, than—"Is my cheque ready?"

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