

And concerning this patient, evidence was also given that he went to St. Thomas' Hospital with regard to his physical and mental condition, and subsequently went to Mrs. Weston's home after many attempts had been made to get him into an institution. He was also taken to a Dr. Savage, the specialist, but neither he nor Dr. Walker would certify him. Dr. Sharkey, another specialist, advised that he should be kept under observation for a time, but would not certify him.

For the defence Mrs. Weston said she was the proprietor of the home, her husband had nothing to do with the business, but merely kept the books. She had carried on the home for ten years, and had the support of almost every doctor in Richmond. She did not take in mental cases, and had letters to prove that she had refused them. She was not aware that the patients concerned were lunatics, or she should have refused to receive them. There was no necessity for her to take these mental cases, as she had plenty without. Neither of the medical men who attended the cases had ever suggested that they were mentally incapable. In one instance she knew that doctors had refused to certify the patient as insane. When she received a complaint from the Lunacy Commissioners she immediately attended, and gave them every information, and they seemed satisfied with it.

Dr. Cundell deposed that he had attended one of the patients for a considerable time. He could find no reason for certifying him until July. With regard to another patient witness never found any cause to advise that he should be certified.

Dr. Walker testified to having attended one of the patients before he went to Mrs. Weston's Home. Witness recommended that he should go to Dr. Savage at St. Thomas' Hospital, and he refused to certify him as a lunatic.

Dr. Payne said, with regard to the same patient, that he found his mental condition rather weak. He attributed this to the low state of health he was in, and did not see any signs of lunacy.

Mr. Robinson, for the defence, submitted that it would be a very dangerous thing to keep people with a tendency to degenerate into lunacy from attending homes of the character of that kept by Mrs. Weston. The home had been splendidly kept, and there was not the slightest suggestion of ill-treatment. All the time they had been at Blenheim House the patients had been under medical treatment. Both the gentlemen referred to had been exceedingly happy in the home, and if doctors of experience had refused to certify them as lunatics, how was Mrs. Weston to know? There could not be the slightest

doubt that his client had acted in a bona-fide manner. She had taken every precaution, and had done her best to protect herself and her home.

After retiring, Alderman Roberts said the Bench had come to the unanimous conclusion that the case had been proved. They had taken into consideration the good name the house bore. Each defendant would be fined £5 and costs on each summons.—The total amounted to £58 9s.

We have referred to this case at some length, because it is evidently important to all proprietors of Nursing Homes. It would appear that they must be guided entirely by their own judgment as to the medical condition of patients they receive, because, though these patients may be under medical care, and though experts in mental disorders may have refused to certify them as insane, yet if they are eventually proved to be so, the responsibility falls upon the proprietor of the home which receives them, and she may have to pay heavy damages. As diagnosis is no part of a nurse's duty, the law, as it thus stands, appears to us to be eminently unsatisfactory.

Mentioned in Despatches.

The *Gazette*, of September 10th, contains a despatch from Earl Roberts to the Secretary of State for War, in which he brings to the notice of Mr. Brodrick "the names of regimental officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the Regulars, Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers, together with a few irregulars and civilians, who, with their various units, have rendered special and meritorious service."

Amongst these are included:—

ARMY NURSING SERVICE.

Superintendents: Miss M. Thomas, Miss S. J. Browne, Miss L. Hardement, Miss E. A. Dowse, Miss S. E. Webb, Miss S. E. Oram, Miss A. Garriock.

Nursing Sisters and Acting Superintendents: Miss L. W. Tulloh, Miss L. M. Stewart.

Nursing Sisters: Miss E. T. Noble, Miss A. S. Bond, Miss J. Hoadley, Miss M. G. Hill, Miss A. A. Murphy, Miss H. L. Neale, Miss A. R. Rose-Innes, Miss L. M. Culverwell.

ARMY NURSING SERVICE RESERVE.

Nursing Sisters E. A. Chaffey, A. Knaggs, F. Holmes, E. E. Coutts, C. M. Friend, M. L. Harris, E. M'C. Anderson, E. A. Deacon, L. Warriner, T. Davis, F. C. A. Holcroft, G. Balfour, M. O'C. M'Creery, E. A. Snape, A. Beadsmore

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