

Leeds, said she went to the defendant two years ago, and understood that she was to be trained as a nurse. She did not receive any such training, but had been sent round to about fifty towns selling literature. She was dressed in a black and white cloak and a black bonnet, with black and white things down the back, and on her arm she had a red cross. She was called Sister Florence Nightingale.

Mr. J. W. Palestine, President of the Manchester and Salford British-Israel Association, said the defendant had no right to do business in their name. She was only an ordinary member. The late Mr. Rigby (who had lived with the defendant) had written articles about the objects and views of the association. These had been printed and sold by Mrs. Bishop on her own account, none of the proceeds coming to the association.

The injury done to the reputation of trained nurses by the constant appearance of their uniform in the dock is impossible to estimate. Until it can be ascertained who, and who is not, a trained nurse, by reference to a nursing register, it would be only just if publicity were given to the training which they have received, when women elect to appear in it in the dock.

In the present instance Mrs. Bishop appears to have been carrying on a pseudo-nursing home for some years, though it is difficult to understand how any one could imagine that she could do what she professed, namely, train children of 14 years of age and under to nurse the sick poor, yet evidently parents were to be found sufficiently credulous to entrust their children to her care for this purpose.

The Chairman of the Board of Magistrates said that he had no doubt that the defendant had grossly neglected the children, and that the death of one of them had been caused by her neglect. Mrs. Bishop is now undergoing a well deserved sentence of three months' imprisonment, with hard labour, but we must point out that on the expiration of this time there is nothing to prevent her from again donning her nursing uniform and practising as a nurse, to the grievous discredit of trained and reputable nurses. Surely the public must recognise that for its own protection it is necessary that some controlling body should be formed which should have power to remove from the ranks of recognised nurses those who have proved themselves unworthy of trust, and of exposing the fraudulent claims of those who falsely claim to belong to a profession for which they have never qualified.

As a preliminary measure we would suggest that a Parliamentary enquiry into the whole Nursing Question should be held. Already departmental enquiries into two of the public nursing services have been rendered obligatory by the break down

in their organizations, the Royal Commission on South African Hospitals, which dealt extensively with military nursing, and the Departmental Committee now sitting to inquire into the conditions of nursing in the sick wards of workhouses. Such a procedure would be far more statesmanlike than separate enquiries into the various branches of nursing as they become unworkable. It is only by a thorough investigation into nursing from both educational and industrial standpoints that a satisfactory system can be evolved, which will meet the needs of the sick of all classes, and obtain for thoroughly trained nurses the systematic training and legal status which are their due. In the face of the constantly recurring scandals recorded weekly in the police court columns can any one affirm that such an inquiry is unnecessary?

#### MISS ISABELLA SPENCE RELEASED.

Isabella Spence, 29, lately a nurse at the Military Hospital, Woolwich, who, at the previous sessions pleaded guilty to stealing articles from the Army and Navy Stores, Westminster, was brought up for sentence at the Central Criminal Court. Mr. Charles Mathews appeared for the prisoner, who hitherto had borne an irreproachable character. Counsel said that relatives of the prisoner were in attendance and, if the court would sanction that course, were willing to enter into a recognisance for her future good conduct. The Recorder, taking into consideration the fact that she had been already some weeks in gaol, ordered her to be released on entering into a recognisance in the sum of £250 to come up for sentence if called upon.

We fear the leniency with which nurses, and those women who pose as nurses in the dock, are treated by those who are appointed to administer the law without fear or favour, will encourage this class of criminal, greatly to the disadvantage of honourable trained nurses.

#### AN IMPOSTOR.

We have twice had occasion to know that a person calling herself Miss Fenwick, and stating that she is a cousin of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, has borrowed money, which she has neglected to repay, on the strength of this assumed relationship. We take this opportunity, therefore, of stating that Mrs. Fenwick has no cousin of this name engaged in nursing, nor so far as she is aware, any relative at all who is nursing. As the money has been borrowed under false pretences, and those who lent it have lost sight of the borrower, it may be assumed that she has no intention of refunding it, for which reason we advise our readers to be on their guard.

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