

Legal Matters.

"NURSE" SENT TO PENAL SERVITUDE.

At the Central Criminal Court on Thursday, in last week, Sarah Russell, described as a nurse, was indicted for, and charged on the coroner's inquisition with, the wilful murder of Annie Thompson, by performing an illegal operation. The Director of Public Prosecutions prosecuted, and at the request of the judge, Mr. Justice Ridley, Mr. Guy Stephenson defended the prisoner. It was alleged that on January 16th she performed an illegal operation on Mrs. Annie Thompson, a married woman. Mrs. Thompson afterwards became ill, and on January 22nd a medical man was called in to attend her, but she died. A post-mortem examination was made, and it was found that her death was the result of blood poisoning, which the prosecution contended had been caused by the alleged illegal operation. The prisoner denied that she performed any operation or used any instrument.

It was stated that the prisoner had used an instrument on two other women, but they had both recovered and were now quite well. Counsel for the prosecution said that a report had been received from the police stating that the prisoner was a good and attentive nurse.

The jury found the prisoner *Not Guilty* of murder, but *Guilty* of manslaughter, and she was sentenced to seven years' penal servitude.

We cannot learn that any evidence was produced to show that the prisoner had been trained as a nurse, but her crime will no doubt bring fresh discredit upon the nursing profession, as throughout the proceedings against her, both at the coroner's inquest and now at the Criminal Court, this woman has been described as a nurse. The case is but one more instance of the necessity for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, for it is quite as unjust that nurses as a profession should be saddled with responsibility for the crimes of women who are nurses only in name, as it would be to hold the medical profession responsible for the misconduct of every quack.

A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT.

An inquest which was adjourned in order to obtain the presence of the medical man who had sent the child into hospital, was held last week at the Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot, by Coroner W. E. Foster, into the death of the thirteen-year-old daughter of Quarter-Master Sergeant Chowles in the 20th Hussars, now serving in South Africa.

On returning from India Mrs. Chowles and her family were placed in the quarters already partly occupied by a family down with measles.

The deceased child took the measles mildly, and was placed in the Military Infectious Hospital, Thornhill. The Matron was ill, and Nurse Baldwin and another were left in charge.

On Wednesday afternoon the child was deemed out of danger. Nurse Baldwin went to dinner, and so informed Nurse Taylor. When the message was given to Nurse Taylor she was attending on another patient in a different ward. Leaving this patient she visited the sick Matron, and then proceeded to the child, whom she was horrified to find burning to death.

The coroner proved that it was contrary to orders for a child to be treated for measles in an infectious hospital.

It was explained that there was a fire guard in the ward of which the child was the sole occupant, but that it could easily have been pulled aside.

VERDICT OF MANSLAUGHTER AGAINST A MOTHER.

At an inquest recently held at Bristol a coroner's jury returned a verdict of "Manslaughter" against a woman, whose child had died from convulsions and bronchitis accelerated by improper feeding. It was stated in the course of the evidence that the child had been fed upon condensed skim milk costing 2½d. a tin, and upon boiled bread.

Scotchwomen to the Fore.

A communication has been received in Dundee stating that Sisters Reid and M'Gregor, serving at the refugee camp near Kimberley, have been promoted—the former to the post of Camp Matron, and the latter to Hospital Matron. Both ladies, prior to leaving for South Africa, were on the staff of Dundee Royal Infirmary, and the tidings of their success will be learned with pleasure by a large circle of friends in the city.

The Passing Bell.

We regret to record the death of Miss Meade, a nurse working in connection with the Acland Home, Oxford, as the result of a bicycling accident. Miss Meade collided with a butcher's cart at the corner of the Woodstock and Banbury roads, and was thrown from her bicycle under the feet of the pony which stepped upon her with considerable force, and a wheel of the cart passed over her chest. She was removed to the Radcliffe Infirmary, having sustained a fracture of the base of the skull, beside internal injuries, and died on Friday last. The deceased nurse was a native of High Wycombe.

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