

our contemporary considers that the Lunacy Commissioners are the proper persons to raise an inquiry as to whether or not they should be received in unlicensed homes, and is of opinion that "even an abortive prosecution would call public attention to a great evil, and widespread danger, and would pave the way for the public inquiry into establishments of this character which is so much to be desired, and for legislation which is evidently needed." The article concludes with an appeal for information from persons acquainted with nursing homes of a doubtful character.

Evidence is accruing, says the *Lancet*, that the practice of adding artificial colouring matter to milk is increasing. Samples are commonly met with thus coloured to give them a rich but false creamy aspect: The natural colour of milk bears no relation necessarily to the amount of cream present. We believe that annatto is the dye commonly employed, and it is fortunate that it is harmless. Certain coal-tar dyes have, however, been detected in milk, and among them the sodium salt of dimethylaniline-azobenzene-sulphonic acid. Considering that milk is the undoubted staff of life in sickness its adulteration is terribly serious.

A popular movement has been inaugurated in Paris under the title of the "League for the Defence of Human Life," in which it is proposed to investigate the many and varied food adulterations that have become so extensive and in many ways so dangerous. It is pointed out that almost everything sold for food has been adulterated; probably the most serious from the standpoint of human health being milk adulteration, which is rife in nearly all leading cities of the world. Figures are often somewhat deceptive, yet in many instances they carry conviction that is impossible by any other means. For instance it is announced that in Paris alone 18,000 deaths annually result from infantile diarrhoea, and it is estimated that at least one-half of this great mortality is directly dependent upon adventitious substances placed in milk for gain. Surely, if this in any degree approaches the truth, it is time that severe punishment should be framed and meted out to those guilty of thus endangering the public safety.

Mrs. M'Lennan, Ford Cottage, Fochabers, who, for seventeen years, has acted as a nurse in Fochabers and district, received a testimonial recently on the occasion of her leaving for South Africa. The testimonial took the form of a gold watch, suitably inscribed, and a purse of sovereigns. Dr. Ironside made the presentation.

An action which was brought by the father of

a child who died in the County Hospital, Lanark, was heard before Lord Low in the Court of Session. It was alleged by the pursuer that the child, an infant under two years of age, and who was suffering from scarlet fever, when convalescent in the hospital fell at the fireplace and was so seriously burned that she died the following day. His lordship, after hearing all the evidence, came to the conclusion that undue pressure had not been exercised in the removal of the child, and dismissed the case. We think that relatives who suffer in the manner described from the carelessness of hospital authorities would be better able to bring an action for want of due care of the patient during the period the authorities were responsible, rather than for the removal to the hospital of a child suffering from infectious disease.

At a recent meeting of the Nenagh Board of Guardians, some statements made by the medical officer, Dr. Minnitt, respecting the neglect of fever patients by the Matron, Sister, Head Nurse, and other officials was considered. Dr. Minnitt alleged "that the patients were left part of Friday, and the greater part of Saturday, without any nurse, and that it was a shocking thing that they should be so neglected and left like dogs."

The Very Rev. Dean White contended that this and other statements were without foundation, the "fever hospital had not been used for some time, and the rooms were left unoccupied and got out of order." He thought there should be a sworn enquiry. For the satisfaction of all concerned we think so also. One point which is quite obvious in connection with the matter is that unoccupied rooms do not get themselves out of order, and that in the case of wards which may be required at any moment, it is certainly the duty of those responsible to see that they are kept in a condition of nursing efficiency.

Sir George O'Farrell and Dr. Courteney, Inspectors of Lunacy, have been holding an enquiry, with closed doors, into the deaths of three patients at the Richmond Asylum, Dublin. Inquests were recently held on all these cases. In the first the patient died as a result of a quarrel with another patient, in the next a woman sustained injuries in an attempt to get through a small window, while in the third a woman hanged herself by a string obtained in the sewing room. The occurrence of these three fatalities within a short time of one another would seem to indicate either that the nursing staff of the asylum is not sufficiently strong or that increased vigilance on its part is needed.

We gather from a circular recently issued by the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs that

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