

protected by the rule of qualified privilege, and gave the jury three questions to consider:—

(1) Did they think the statements in the letter true?

(2) Was the letter sent maliciously?

(3) Did the terms of the letter exceed privilege?

After consulting for forty minutes, the jury found—

(1) That the statements in the letter were not true.

(2) That the letter was sent maliciously.

(3) That the terms of the letter exceeded privilege.

They fixed the amount of damages at £50.

Mary Hudson, described as a nurse, of Albany Road, Camberwell, was given in charge for tendering counterfeit coins in the refreshment room at Liverpool Street Station. She was placed in a cell at Bishopsgate Police-station, where she attempted to commit suicide by hanging herself. She was, on Wednesday, committed for trial at the next Old Bailey sessions.

The American Nursing World.

A representative number of the graduate trained nurses of Washington met at the Columbia University Hospital recently, and formed a permanent organisation. Miss Georgia Nevins, Superintendent of Nurses of Garfield Hospital, was elected President. The Society is representative of about 200 members. The qualifications for membership are a diploma from any recognised training-school and two years' experience in hospital service. Miss Nevins is one of the most bright and able women in the American nursing world, and will make an immensely popular President.

Commissioner Macfarland, together with Health Officer Woodward, has prepared the draft of a Bill to be presented for the consideration of Congress governing the regulation and registration of professional trained nurses in the district of Columbia. The Bill establishes an examining board of five nurses to be appointed by the Commissioners, and says any person who applies for registration shall pay a fee of 10 dols. therefor, and be registered if she satisfies the authorities that she is over twenty-one years of age, a nurse of ability, and of good moral character. An exception is given, providing that a nurse who has been engaged in nursing in the district during the year preceding the enactment of the law shall pay for her registration only 5 dols. The nurses' examining board is to work in conjunction with the board of medical supervisors of the district.

The resignation of Mrs. Harriet Camp Lounsbury as treasurer and corresponding secretary of the Spanish-American War Nurses is announced. Miss Rebecca Jackson, of Overbrook, Pa., has been elected by the Executive Committee as her successor.

Practical Points.

The *Practitioner* for January—
Causes of Typhoid. which is a special issue confined exclusively to enteric or typhoid fever—deals with the causes of the

promulgation of this dread complaint. Instances are given of the typhoid bacillus being conveyed through the media of drinking-water, ice, milk, ice-cream, oysters, salad and uncooked vegetables, wheelks, cockles, flies, and dust. One article deals chiefly with infection by shell-fish and personal contact. Statistics are given, culled from the reports of many Officers of Health, which would indicate that a very large proportion of typhoid in London is attributable to shell-fish drawn from polluted beds.

Dealing with oysters more particularly, the *Practitioner* says that it cannot be doubted that, owing to the resulting fear of enteric fever, oysters have fallen to some extent into undeserved disrepute. In the best-managed beds every care is taken to prevent the possibility of contamination, and oysters coming from such sources are free from danger. The difficulty lies in ascertaining beyond all doubt the actual locality from which the molluscs have come. Until this is possible all alike will remain under suspicion. It is to be hoped, however, that local authorities will realise their duties in the matter of sewage disposal, and that before long the possibility of oysters being contaminated with sewage will only be remembered as an extraordinary instance of the dirty habits prevalent in a past generation.

Two interesting cases of the transmission of tuberculosis from cattle to human beings have just been proved at the Municipal Slaughter Houses in Berlin. Two butchers' apprentices and two officials who had to handle condemned meat have been attacked by lupus. One of them has been cured by treatment with the Finsen-ray apparatus.

In Europe, the discoveries of zoologists and bacteriologists have been used to alter the balance of the Growth of Food-plants. Nature for beneficial purposes only, says a writer in the *Morning Post*, and the only capital instance is that of stimulating the growth of food-plants by feeding their roots with bacteria which will supply them with nitrogen products. A suggestion was made by the Pasteur Institute that rats might be inoculated with pathogenic bacteria, which would spread disease among the rat community, but these experiments have proved neither very successful nor very satisfactory from other points of view, and a similar suggestion of means by which disease should be spread among the locusts of South Africa or the rabbits that are the pest of Australia has also proved unsatisfactory. But in the western hemisphere, where the boll-weevil is devastating the forests and the cotton worm is ravaging the cotton fields, the greatest attention is being paid to the possibilities of cultivating parasites which shall in turn drive out these destroyers of man's property. The Imperial Department of Agriculture of the West Indies is at present giving its consideration to some internal parasites which have been found in the cotton

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