

The Inquest at Kingston Infirmiry.

We have received a letter from Dr. Patteson Armstrong, resident medical officer at the Kingston Hill Infirmiry, in reference to a report, in our last issue, of the inquest held on a patient who died in that institution. We are informed that this letter is not for publication; we therefore invite Dr. Armstrong to send us for publication any statement concerning the matter which he desires to make public.

Legal Matters.

NURSE CHARGED WITH THEFT.

Marguerite Burt, described as a nurse, was charged on remand, at Stratford, with stealing five £5 Bank of England notes from Brook House, Snaresbrook, the property of Dr. Rowland Hill, in whose employment she was. Mrs. Hill missed the notes from a wardrobe, and spoke about the matter, mentioning that she wanted some cash. The prisoner said she would lend her some money, but came downstairs saying that £4 of her own had been taken. The matter was placed in the hands of the police. When the detective was at the house, Mrs. Hill, in reply to a question from the prisoner, said the doctor had determined to find the thief. She then asked Mrs. Hill to go upstairs and took from her dress the missing bank notes.

The prisoner refused to give any account of her friends. A letter in her handwriting was found at Brook House, in which she expressed sorrow for her action, and mentioned "the old folks at home." At the court on the previous occasion she had said her father and mother were dead.

Dr. Hill said the prisoner had been in his service for about two years, and her conduct in his house had been irreproachable. She came with excellent references from some eminent medical men in the West End.

The Chairman said the Bench were very far from satisfied with the prisoner's silence as to her friends, but there was not the smallest reason to believe that she had committed a crime of that sort before. The Bench wished to be lenient and give her a fresh start in life, and in these circumstances they would bind her over, under the First Offenders Act, to come up for judgment if called on. There was clearly some mystery behind this. If she placed herself in the hands of the Court Missionary she would be well advised.

We hope the fresh start made by Miss Burt will not be in the direction of private nursing.

IPSWICH NURSE SENTENCED.

At Eye Borough Petty Sessions last Saturday, before the Mayor and other magistrates, Maud Taylor, hospital nurse, Ipswich, was sentenced to a month's imprisonment for stealing a silver vinaigrette case, the property of Dr. Barnes, of Eye.

Nursing Echoes.

* * * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



An Imperial decree has been issued ordering the establishment of a Red Cross Society in China, which will adhere to the International Convention. The Imperial Treasury has granted the sum of 100,000 taels (about £12,500) to the Society.

The Empress of Japan, accompanied by the ladies of the Court and of the foreign Legations, has visited the Red Cross hospital at Tokio and inspected the arrangements. She talked to some of the sick and wounded soldiers.

The Tsaritsa's hospital train has started for the Far East. The train is the finest railway hospital ever constructed, and consists of two sections. The first section comprises fourteen ambulance cars, fitted with every appliance to render travelling comfortable for the sick and wounded. The second section consists of two operating cars, containing every adjunct of the modern operating room. The interiors of the cars are tiled, and can be instantly cleansed by disinfectants. These cars are intended to be detached from the train so as to be sent to points along the line where they can be most usefully employed. The staff which went with the train consists of three doctors, four Sisters of Mercy, and three assistants. The train also contains a library, chapel, and bathrooms, including a special electric bath and an X-ray car with dynamos, as well as a kitchen, from which all the patients will be specially fed. Other cars contain a dispensary, a sterilising and disinfecting apparatus, a water-distilling plant, and machinery for the manufacture of ice. The Tsaritsa has not only furnished the whole train, but is also giving 1,000 roubles (£100) monthly to assist in the purchase of delicacies for the sick.

The following report, presented to the Portsmouth Guardians by Dr. J. H. Bryant, is eminently satisfactory as far as it goes, but proves again our contention that many nurses received their certificates without any examination in practical nursing by a trained nurse. Dr. Bryant states:—

"I have tested, by means of a written and oral examination, thirty-four first, second, and third year nurses of the Portsmouth Parish Infirmiry.

"Sixteen third-year nurses presented themselves and

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