

occasion of privilege, if the defendant *bond-fide* believed what she said. Again, however, the question of express malice arose.

Points of interest in this case are that with Nursing Homes of a certain class it is apparently "usual" for the proprietor to run the home in an assumed name. Further, that the public has no reliable means of ascertaining the standing of a home.

The statement of the witness Mrs. Groom, alias Richardson, alias Foster, that her home is registered, and that the County Council officers, as a *quid pro quo* for help given to them, send cases to such homes, is one which may usefully engage the attention of the London County Council.

It will be noted that Miss Cowan not only paid no salary to Miss Hensbridge for her services as useful help, but that she obtained 10s. a week from her, and that in regard to nurses she gives them £2 10s. 0d. out of the £3 8s. 0d. they earn. It would be interesting to learn the charges made to patients in this home. The charges brought in relation to these homes and institutions, including accusations of robbery, and "wilful" and wicked deception, prove conclusively the necessity for the Registration both of nurses and of nursing homes and nursing institutions, and for the periodical inspection of the latter. It is the only efficient method of affording the public the information and protection to which it is entitled.

Mr. Atherley Jones, who addressed the jury on the question of malice and special damages (which were paid at £370), said that the defendant was a district nurse in the employ of Miss Rucker. She was asked in confidence about the plaintiff's home, and it was the legal duty of a citizen to give truthful information under the circumstances. Referring to the letter asserted to have been written by an inspector, he said that in law there was no inspectorship of nursing homes.

The Judge said he was sorry he did not carry it in his mind that there were inspectors of nursing homes there might be. For the defence, counsel pleaded privilege in regard to the alleged libel and slander, and an absence of malice. The defendant would swear that the suggestion that she threatened to ruin the home was a fabrication. Mrs. Groom was acting as a detective, and the charges had arisen out of her anxiety to get a case. It was a vile conspiracy on the part of Mrs. Groom and the plaintiff to injure a high-minded and benevolent lady.

Evidence was given by the defendant and by Miss Hensbridge. The latter asserted that she asked Miss Cowan for her £100 back again, as the place was not what she expected. Miss Cowan snatched a receipt, which she had written, from her and then said if she said a word she would swear she had paid the money, and rob her of every penny she had. Miss Hawker and Mrs. Bland, nurses in the employ of Miss Cowan, also gave evidence.

The jury returned a verdict for the defendant.

Dr. Anita M'Gee in Japan.

Dr. Anita M'Gee gives some graphic accounts in the Press of her experiences in the Japanese hospitals, where she worked with a band of trained American nurses, during the early part of the war.

A NATION OF GENTLEMEN.

With the rest of the world, Dr. M'Gee bears testimony to the beautiful manners of the Japanese, who appear to her a nation of gentlemen.

"All the world," she writes, "has admired and wondered at the skill of the officers and the bravery of the men, but the newspapers haven't told the other side of the story. When I was on that splendid hospital ship, the *Kosai-Maru*, returning from Manchuria to the great base hospital in Japan, we had with us forty Russian prisoners. They had the freedom of the decks, just as the Japanese had, regardless of rank, and they all had beds, although many of their captors had to sleep on the floor on a lower deck. When one of the Russians appeared on deck he was greeted by the Japanese soldiers like a long-lost friend, offered a seat and a cigarette, and amused with stories, told mainly by gesture and laughter. The Japanese seemed hosts, not captors, and the spontaneity and heartiness of their actions made a sight to do one's heart good.

"The night before we landed from the *Kosai-Maru* we had a little impromptu music in one of the large open wards. One of my nurses, who was then on hospital ship duty, sang some familiar American airs. Several wounded Russians, encouraged by their officers, sang two or three of their stirring folk songs, and we ended with 'Kimi gai yo,' the national hymn of Japan."

Writing of the difficult operations in removing shattered bones, so skilfully performed by the Japanese surgeons, she tells of a young cavalryman "who had a terrible wound in the thigh from a Russian sabre cut right through it. He lay for several months with his leg either held straight by a heavy weight or fastened in a plaster cast; but it is believed that bone will grow in the place of the pieces which were taken out; so that ultimately he may walk again. In spite of his long suffering, this boy was always cheerful and happy, and a favourite with everyone.

"When he was finally well enough to be sent to the army hospital nearest his home I went to the station to see him off on a hospital train, and his last words were of his regrets at parting with his 'Miss Mama,' the American nurse who had taken such good care of him. It is these characteristics of even temper, gentleness, and patience, of thoughtfulness for others under all conditions, of gratitude for the smallest kindness, and of unvarying gentlemanly conduct, which made me, as I have already stated, fall in love with the whole army.

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