

Queen's nurses are generally reluctant to undertake the mother's ordinary duties. A Queen's nurse does not habitually undertake housework, but in any emergency shares or does the work of putting the patient's room into nursing order; she frequently cooks for the patient, and, when other nursing work admits of it, assists the family in other ways.

6. That there is difficulty in finding funds for the support of nurses so highly trained, and consequently requiring to be highly paid. Persons employed under the Holt-Ockley system, part general servant, part attendant on the patient, are cheaper than Queen's nurses to the Committees who provide and partly support them, but they are dearer to the individual patients who have to house, feed, and partly pay for them, and, further, they overtake a comparatively small number of patients, and are in this respect also dearer per patient than Queen's nurses. When the value of trained nurses is understood this difficulty can be overcome, as in Argyllshire, Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, and Dumbartonshire, where from a central county fund grants in aid are given to poor districts.

The women trained under the Holt-Ockley organisation are qualified for a distinct piece of work different from, and which should not be contrasted with, that of Queen's nurses. They are, no doubt, carefully selected and capable women; they are trained midwives; they are trained as handy women in home and sick room; and cannot fail to be welcomed where it is desired to employ midwives, or where, for certain illnesses, only a resident cottage help and handy woman for the sick room is required. But trained nurses, in the modern acceptance of the word, they are not.

No scheme can provide for every possible contingency, but the nursing of the sick poor in their own homes under the Institute is to the utmost possible elastic and adaptive; it is efficient; it is suited for both town and country; it is suited and acceptable to those for whom it is intended; and it is cheap per case, surely a better test than per annum.

Legal Matters.

THE CASE OF NURSE HALL.

At the Berks Winter Assizes, before the Lord Chief Justice, Edith Mary Hall, a nurse at the Berks County Asylum, was indicted for the manslaughter of a patient in that institution. The circumstances of this case have already been published in this journal.

Evidence was given by the Charge Nurse, Miss Lily Rolf, Nurse Bertie Birchfield, and Nurse Simmons. Dr. E. L. Dunn, who made the *post mortem* examination, said that the deceased's skull, though remarkably thin, was intact. It was so thin he should have expected any violent blow to have broken it.

Dr. Murdoch, the Medical Superintendent, said the deceased had all the appearance of being in an epileptic fit when he saw her.

The judge here intimated that he could not possibly let the case go to a jury. The Charge Nurse saw nothing whatever to complain of and all the evidence went to prove that the poor woman might and probably did die from a cause which had no connection with the prisoner. Not only should the prisoner be discharged but there was no evidence which could be submitted to a jury to put her in peril at all. He therefore directed the jury to return a verdict of "not guilty."

Nursing Echoes.

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The Queen's Commemoration Fund has handed over £2,250 to Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, and yet an additional income of £2,000 per annum is needed by the council of the Institute in order to maintain the present standard of efficiency, and with the increasing demands for Queen's Nurses throughout the country the necessity has arisen for efforts to increase the income derived from annual subscriptions and donations. The Hon. Sydney Holland, Mr. J. E. Greaves, lord-lieutenant for the county of Carnarvon, and Mr. Harold Boulton, M.V.O., were selected for recommendation to Her Majesty for appointment as members of the council of the Queen's Institute representing the subscribers at the triennial meeting. The present committee of the fund were re-elected to act during the ensuing year.

The news is welcome that the Princess Victoria is making excellent progress, and is almost convalescent after her operation for appendicitis. The nursing arrangements are under the superintendence of Miss McCaul, in co-operation with two nurses from her Home Hospital—Nurses Fletcher and Isaacs.

For years past the general condition of Princess Victoria has been unsatisfactory, says the *Westminster Gazette*, and she has suffered from migraine, a form of nervous headache which has its origin in dyspepsia. Notwithstanding her constant *malaise*, the Princess leads an active life, often assists Miss Charlotte Knollys in her secretarial duties, and is in many ways the Queen's right hand. At Court her popularity is undeniable, and her character is described as a singularly selfless one. With her nephews and nieces the Princess is a great favourite, and, ever at the beck and call of the little ones, goes by the name at home of "The Head Nurse." The Czar has a particular affection for his cousin, and asked her to be godmother to the future Czar of All the Russias, an honour she shared only with the Czarina, the Dowager Czarina, and one Russian Grand Duchess.

Suicides in or from Nursing Homes are far too common. We regret to report that, broken in health, Mrs. Alice Mary Stains, wife of an Indian

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