

## Legal Matters.

## CONVICTED OF THEFT.

Attired in the uniform of a trained nurse, Annie Costley, Dunstall Street, Stafford Road, Wolverhampton, was charged before the Wolverhampton Borough Bench last week with stealing a quantity of tape, valued at 2d., the property of Arthur Cutts, a stallholder in the market. She was further charged with stealing a purse, valued at 8d., the property of Mr. Cohen, another stallholder.

Sergeant Johnson, who was the chief witness called for the prosecution, said he was on duty in the market on Wednesday morning last, when he saw the accused behaving in a suspicious manner at Mr. Cutts' stall. He saw her take two pieces of tape from the stall, and then he gave information to a plain clothes officer, who kept her under observation. Subsequently he confronted her, and when he told her he should charge her with stealing the tape she offered him 10s. He told her she would have to go with him to the station. She then fell to the ground fainting, and, said the witness, "we had to practically carry her to the station." The prisoner's mother, Sergeant Johnston continued, was with her, and he invited her to come to the station with them. She consented, but as he entered the door of the police yard with the prisoner the mother turned and walked away. The sergeant said that in a basket the prisoner had in her possession he found a purse, the subject of the other charge, together with other smaller articles. The behaviour of the prisoner was that of an old thief.

Mr. Willcox, who appeared for the prisoner, made an earnest appeal to the bench to deal with her under the First Offenders Act. Her life's history was a painful one. Thirteen years ago she had to leave her husband with her three children. Her father, who was a respected and respectable man, found her a home, and gave her all the assistance in his power. She had been a good, honest, and industrious woman, and in order not to be a burden on her father, she qualified as a nurse, and for thirteen years she had done her utmost to bring up her family respectably.

The Bench ordered the prisoner to pay a fine of 20s., with costs, or in default one month's imprisonment.

In the absence of an official Register, there is no means of ascertaining whether this woman has had any training as a nurse or not; but, in any case, the frequently recurring cases of theft, by women purporting to be trained nurses, must surely convince the public of the dangers they incur so long as the profession of nursing is unorganised, and so long as there is no authoritative Register of Trained Nurses from which the name of a nurse who is convicted of a criminal offence can be removed.

## 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.*



We announce with pleasure that the nurses of the Kingston Infirmary have decided to form a League, to be known as the Kingston Infirmary Nurses' League. On the invitation of the Matron, Miss J. A. Smith, Miss Mary Burr, the Hon. Secretary of the League of St. John's House Nurses, recently addressed the nursing staff at the Infirmary on the subject.

The decision to form a League was then taken, and a meeting has since been held, and everything put in order. The officers are—*President*, Miss J. A. Smith (Matron); *Vice-President*, Miss A. Smith (Assistant Matron); *Hon. Treasurer*, Sister Prichard; *Hon. Secretary*, Sister Brewer.

The following Nurses at the Kingston Infirmary passed their final examination on March 6th, the Examiner was Dr. James Cantlie, M.A.; F.R.C.S.; D.P.H., Miss Ruth Batchelor, Miss R. A. Wood, and Miss Edith Jennings, all of whom also hold the certificate of the London Obstetrical Society, and Miss Elizabeth Bradshaw. Miss Batchelor has since received an appointment at the Surgical Home, 54, Beaumont Street, London, W. Miss Wood and Miss Jennings have joined the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, and Miss Bradshaw is taking up work at the Royal Hospital for Paralysis and Epilepsy, Queen Square, W.C.

The eighteenth annual general meeting of the members of the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses was held at the River Plate House, Finsbury Circus, on Thursday in last week. The report of the Council of the Fund was presented, and the Chairman read letters from the King and Queen expressing their satisfaction with the Secretary's report. Mr. R. Ernest Alexander, Mr. T. C. Dewey, the Hon. Egremont J. Mills, Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, jun., and Mr. Archibald Williamson were re-elected members of the Council.

"In grateful recognition of the uniform and unvarying care which she has shown to me in my illness," Mr. James Douglass, of 3, Down Street, Piccadilly, W., bequeathed all his furniture and a sum of £500 to Nurse Annie Ashdown, of the London Association of Nurses. To Nurse Taylor, of the Nurses' Co-operative Home, Westbourne Square, who attended him during an illness in 1900, Mr. Douglass left £250.

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