

when trained—a growing evil. If all the hospitals beginning with the London, and nursing institutions, were to disgorge the ill-gotten gains made by this method hundreds of nurses would be happier as to their future than they are to-day.

The pay of District Nurses is usually woefully inadequate.

While the services of trained nurses are in increasing demand in many directions we note that enterprising firms, anxious to push their commodities, are claiming that if these are used, the services of trained nurses can be dispensed with; thus the Gas Light and Coke Company state in a prospectus that the proprietor of a private nursing establishment in the West End, especially favoured by some of the leading physicians and surgeons, in which gas fires are used in every room, said in an interview: "I would not be without my gas fires for anything. The gas fires often save me the cost of a night nurse, because if the only need of a patient at night is to be kept warm I can leave the gas fire to do that by itself." Messrs. Carter also claim for one of their invalid appliances that by its use the services of a nurse can often be dispensed with. If the only need of a patient is to be kept warm we think this might be achieved in his own home without paying the high fees of a private nursing home, and in relation to mechanical appliances, however useful they may be in their way, it is futile to claim that they can ever take the place of a trained nurse.

At an inquest concerning the death of Isabella Livingstone, a patient in the Bethlehem Royal Hospital, who was kept under constant observation in the day, who committed suicide in the night by hanging herself from the window frame with the bed sheet, the nurse who was on duty said she had over 100 patients to look after. Dr. Craig said he considered the nursing arrangements at the hospital entirely satisfactory. We regret we cannot agree with him—no nurse should be responsible for the care, or even oversight, of 100 insane persons, many with suicidal tendencies, it is impossible that she can restrain them, and the mental strain of attempting to do so is much more than should be demanded by any medical authority. We advise an increase of the nursing staff on night duty at the institution in question.

The annual meeting of the governors and subscribers to the Derby and Derbyshire Nursing and Sanitary Association was held recently at Derby; the Mayor (Ald. E. T. Ann)

presiding.—Mr. E. S. Johnson (secretary) read the annual report, which referred to the recent opening of the Nightingale Home at Derby for maternity cases. The nurses of the institution had during the past year made 65,000 visits in the town and district. Over 1,000 appliances had been provided for patients, and a great quantity of food and delicacies had been distributed. The income of the institution had been £6,547, and the expenditure £5,549, the balance being appropriated as follows:—Special bonuses to nurses, £365; Nightingale Home purchase fund, £300; contingent fund for old and disabled nurses, £332 11s. 7d., making a total fund of £2,881 11s.—The Mayor moved the adoption of the report, and spoke of the Christian and self-sacrificing work which was being done by the nurses.—The Mayoress presented a purse of £20 to Nurse Freeman, who has been twenty years at the institution; and Bibles to two other nurses who have been there for seven years.

The *Daily News* reports the following most extraordinary enquiry in Ireland:—

"A verdict of 'Death from wilful negligence on the part of William Cleland and his wife, Mary Ann Cleland,' in reference to a child of the latter has been returned by a Belfast coroner's jury.

"Dora Lancaster, Queen's District Nurse for Holywood, said that during March she attended the deceased child.

"Mrs. Cleland said she had asked the witness to get her milk for the child, but was not able to obtain it. At the time she was in a bad state, and in poverty.

"Coroner (to Nurse Lancaster): Were you able to get milk for her?—No; because of the child's illegitimacy.

"Did you know the husband was not working?—I don't remember anything about the husband.

"Because the child was illegitimate you couldn't get it drink?—No.

"Is there a clause in your regulations that prevents you from supplying milk to a starving child?—I have nothing to say to it.

"The Coroner: It seems an extraordinary thing that because a child appears to be illegitimate it should be left to starvation. I am not making any personal remarks to yourself; you are only carrying out the laws of the institution; but it seems a most extraordinary proceeding."

The Regulations of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses contains a clause that the nurse shall not, except in cases of urgent necessity, give nourishment or other relief; she shall at once report such a case to the hon. secretary or other proper authority. This is made clear by a letter from the Secretary of the Institute to be found in another column.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)