

## NURSES AND THE NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT.

The business to be brought before the Nurses' Meeting at Morley Hall, George Street, Hanover Square, W., on January 18th, is of an important nature. It is an open meeting, and all interested in the position of Trained Nurses under the Insurance Act will be cordially welcomed. As all nurses are compelled to pay, it is their duty to organize, so that they may receive a suitable return for their money as far as it is possible. Much recent legislation which affects nurses, carried, as they have no votes, without their consent, has been very detrimental to their personal and professional independence; so that unless they show some sense of personal responsibility it is not improbable that, as usual, they will be excluded from the management of their own financial affairs. Nurses are urged to attend on the 18th for the sake of the profession as a whole.

The Insurance Act is now on sale, price 1s. 3d.; it can be obtained through any bookseller, and those nurses who can find time should study it.

### THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS.

It may interest our readers to know that the following are the Commissioners appointed under the Insurance Act:—

#### ENGLAND.

Sir Robert Morant (Chairman), Mr. J. Smith Whitaker (Deputy Chairman), Mr. J. S. Bradbury, Mr. D. J. Shackleton, Mr. J. Lister Stead, Mr. Thomas Neill, Miss Mona Wilson, and the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.

#### SCOTLAND.

Mr. James Leishman (Chairman), Dr. John Christie McVail (Deputy Chairman), Mr. J. McNicol, Miss Mary Muirhead Paterson, and the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.

#### IRELAND.

Mr. Joseph Aloysius Glynn (Chairman), Mr. W. S. Kinnear (Deputy Chairman), Dr. W. J. Maguire, Mrs. Marie Louise Dickie, and the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.

#### WALES.

Mr. T. J. Hughes (Chairman), Dr. H. Meredith Richards (Deputy Chairman), Mr. J. Rowland, M.V.O., the Hon. Violet Blanche Douglas-Pennant, and the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.

## LEGAL MATTERS.

### IN THE GUISE OF A NURSE.

Once again the nursing profession has to bear the onus of the misdeeds of a criminal, who posing as a nurse has made use of her opportunities in private houses to rob the patients upon whom she was engaged to attend on the strength of forged certificates. It may be surmised what treatment the sick received at the hands of this persistent criminal woman—Kathleen Mac-Cormac, *alias* Craven, who has now been sentenced to eight months' imprisonment at Dover Quarter Sessions for stealing three diamond rings, valued at £70, the property of a patient whom she has been engaged to nurse.

Fraud—forgery—thft—a goodly trio of qualifications on which to build up a connection as a private nurse, but it seems to have succeeded. The history of this woman's career as detailed at Dover by the Chief Constable is as follows:—The father died in the Plumstead Infirmary, the mother lived at Brighton. In 1897 she was bound over on two charges of felony, for stealing goods to the value of £22, and for stealing lace curtains, in each case from a patient whom she was nursing.

She then seems to have disappeared until after the South African War when she alleged she had served in that campaign, produced testimonials purporting to be from the Base Hospital at Bloemfontein, and wore war medals. She, however, has now admitted that the testimonials were forged. From March to August last year she was employed at the Nurses' Home, Manor Park, Lee, from which she was discharged.

In September last, on the strength of a certificate of three years' training from the Meath Hospital, Dublin, and a testimonial from a lady at Brighton, she was engaged by the Dover Nurses' Home, and during a short stay there obtained goods on credit from a draper in the town to the value of £5. She has admitted that she has never been at the Meath Hospital, and that she herself forged the testimonial.

In the case of the theft for which she has just been convicted she took the rings to local jewellers, had the diamonds replaced by paste, and sold the diamonds to Brighton and Dover jewellers for £12 10s. 0d.

We are glad to note that the Chairman of the Dover Bench of Magistrates, in passing sentence, said the case was more serious as deliberate theft was committed while the woman was in the guise of a nurse. Too often criminals appear to excite the compassion of magistrates by appearing before them in the uniform of an honourable profession.

We desire to emphasise that this woman was first convicted of crime in 1897, and had there been a Register of Trained Nurses it would at once have demonstrated that she was not a trained nurse, and that those employing her did so at their own risk. But for the past 14 years she has deceived and battered upon an unsuspecting and credulous public, to the detriment of the sick

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)