

## INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Members of the Board of Directors of the I.C.N. have received the following information from the President, Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, D.B.E., R.R.C. :—

"I beg to notify you that on October 22nd, 1934, I received from Frau Reimann Alter, *née* Reimann, a telegram conveying her resignation from the office she held under the International Council of Nurses, and all work connected therewith. This resignation I have accepted.

I do not propose to exercise the prerogative of the President under Section 9, Article III, of the By-laws, and therefore the post of elected Secretary and Editor of *The International Nursing Review* will remain vacant.

Miss Schwarzenberg, the Executive Secretary, is in a position to carry out the details with reference to the next meeting of the Board of Directors, and, as has been previously notified, the publication of the *Review* has been suspended."

## LEGAL MATTERS.

### A DELIBERATE THEFT.

On December 13th last Rose Margaret McCarthy, a nurse at the Willesden Municipal Hospital was charged at Willesden Police Court with stealing four £1 notes, the property of Nurse Meudwen Evans, from a bedroom. The accused pleaded guilty to the charge and asked for the case to be dealt with by that Court.

Detective-Sergeant Butler deposed that on the previous afternoon he visited the hospital where he saw the accused and told her he was making enquiries concerning four £1 notes which had been stolen from the bedroom of a nurse in which she had been on one occasion for about five minutes. She denied all knowledge of the affair and in company with the acting Matron and the prisoner he searched her room. Coming on a drawer full of woman's clothing he asked the acting Matron to search it, who came upon a purse containing four £1 notes. Asked if it was her money she said it was not, she took it because she was terribly hard up.

The witness added that the prisoner had been employed at the hospital for five years and there were no previous convictions, but he had to draw the attention of the Bench to the fact that petty larceny had been going on in the hospital, although he was not suggesting the prisoner was responsible.

The Medical Superintendent of the Hospital, Dr. A. G. Troup said that during her term of service at the hospital the prisoner had carried out her duties satisfactorily and there had been no previous complaints about her.

In reply to an enquiry from the Chairman (Sir Charles Pinkham): "Are the authorities prepared to take this girl back, or does she lose her employment"? Dr. Troup replied that she had resigned and was leaving the following week, and the prisoner said she was going to Ireland.

She was bound over for twelve months.

We wonder if the Chairman of the Bench would be willing to employ her in his own household.

### A WELL DESERVED SENTENCE.

At Devon Quarter Sessions on January 2nd Aileen Sinclair, 46, a nurse, admitted three charges of stealing cutlery and jewelry, clothes, and other articles, valued in all at £70, from houses at Sidmouth, Sidford, and Tedburn, where she had been engaged as a nurse. She was sentenced to three years' penal servitude and five years' police supervision.

Mr. Anthony Hawke, for the prosecution, said that

Sinclair has an appalling criminal record, dating from 1906, and had spent about 20 years in prison, but there appeared to be no check on her obtaining situations. The serious feature of the case was that at a time when honest people found it difficult to get employment, a woman should, as soon as she came out of prison, be able to get employment as a nurse and victimise people.

Mr. W. E. Batt, for Sinclair, said she was a brilliant nurse, having passed through one of the best London hospitals, she had been highly recommended by doctors under whom she worked. Police-sergeant McCrea, of Sidmouth said that Sinclair had three convictions for bigamy, and others for theft, fraud, false pretences, unlawful wearing of military decorations, falsely representing herself to be a State registered nurse, and attempted suicide.

The Chairman, Mr. Raleigh Phillpotts, said that the Court thought any nursing institution would be well advised to make careful inquiries into the class of woman they employed. We should say more, that it is an obligation to the public to do so. It is appalling to think of sick and dying persons at the mercy of this criminal.

In our issue of January, 1933, in the report of the Penal Committee to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, it was stated that the Council's solicitor had been instructed to take proceedings against this woman, who had already been prosecuted under Section 8 (1) of the Nurses' Registration Act, for falsely representing herself to be a State Registered Nurse. She pleaded guilty at Richmond Police Court on November 1932, and was fined £10, and in default sentenced to two months' imprisonment.

### A TRUE TALE WITH A MORAL.

#### WHO WILL TACKLE THE SPEED FIEND?

We wonder if Mr. Hore-Belisha the energetic Minister of Transport was ever a boy! He looks as if he might have been, but of the psychology of the boy in the street he has no instinct.

Waiting recently to cross New Cavendish Street we came in touch with "Billy Bigeyes."

"Say, Miss," he questioned pointing to the newly erected beacons. "What's them yaller poumpkins?" Considering them as useless eyesores we were about to reply when he exclaimed:

"Lordy, I should loove to have a shy at 'em."

And then, in contempt of all such baubles, he turned a somersault and disappeared.

That is apparently not only the instinct of the boy, but of the man in the street, to judge from police court reports. The "yaller poumpkins" had vanished next day.

Surely our politicians know that these brittle beacons are a mere farce where death and disaster on the roads are concerned.

Speed is the fiend they have not the courage or inclination to control. The tentacles of the motor octopus have got a strangle-hold on human life throughout the land—it will need very strong and altruistic conviction to prevent mutilation and bring down the death-rate.

Ghastly corpses, mutilated bodies—men, women and children—broken homes, motherless and fatherless children, broken-hearted parents, untold misery, grief and derangement! When will their appeal meet the stern determination of the nation that such wrong shall cease?

If the women's vote was worth the paper it is written on, the Speed Fiend would meet his match.

### BUSNECKITIS.

*Old lady* attempting to escape from terrible draught in bus, to Conductor: "We have got a new ailment, we call it Busneck."

*Conductor*: "Then, Madam, I fear I shall suffer from chronic busneckitis."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)