

the newspapers announce the fact with some sensational headline such as "Death of a Heroic Nurse," or "She Died in trying to Save a Life." It is curious that a nation which is so essentially practical and level-headed should, at the same time, be capable of so much sentimentalism, often of the most misplaced and exaggerated kind. In England, when Nurses lose their lives under similar circumstances, very little is said about it.

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A RATHER interesting case has recently been tried in one of the American Courts. A certain colonel, a chronic invalid, a sufferer from partial paralysis, was for several months a guest at an hotel in San Francisco. He was a lone, lorn bachelor, and had no nurse or attendant, and he was wont to call upon one of the chambermaids to lace his shoes and perform small duties for him which the nature of his illness prevented him from performing for himself. For several months a devoted chambermaid, besides doing the work of twenty-nine bedrooms, continued her ministrations to the distressed colonel, he promising to "remember her in his will" for all the extra work his condition entailed on her.

Suddenly the Colonel died from a stroke of paralysis, and it was found that although he had bequeathed £100 to the hotel landlady, his amateur nurse-chambermaid had been forgotten. But the smart American was not to be balked of her rights. She sued the Colonel's heirs for a sum of £28, which she considered was fair remuneration for the work she had done.

Evidence was given on both sides, but the tide of popular feeling was turned when the landlady of the hotel came forward to give her evidence, in which she stated that the services rendered to the invalid by the chambermaid, had been given during the hours when the maid was on duty for the hotel, and that therefore, remuneration for the help she gave the Colonel had been given her in her wages.

So the verdict went against the self-constituted Nurse. Human justice compels us to a certain sympathy with the chambermaid's remark to the landlady as she left the witness-box, "I did not think you would go back on me, you have got your £100."

## Medical Matters.

### THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL.



THE keenest interest is, at present, being taken in Ireland in the election of a Direct Representative of Irish Medical Practitioners upon the General Medical Council. No less than five candidates have come forward for the one vacancy; but very wisely there has been held a sort of preliminary ballot in order to ascertain which of the three general practitioners in the field possesses the greatest amount of support. Dr. Cuming, having polled more votes than the other two candidates together, has been adopted as the general practitioners' candidate, the other two competitors retiring in his favour, and giving him their loyal support. The contest is one of very great importance, because it exemplifies the keen desire on the part of general practitioners in Ireland, as well as in England, to be represented in the Medical Parliament by one of their own class, instead of, as hitherto, by a gentleman more or less closely connected with one of the medical Corporations.

### THE NEW PHOTOGRAPHY.

ATTENTION was recently drawn, in these columns, to the new discovery in photography; and it has been followed, as might have been expected, by experiments which have yielded curious results. It has been found, for example, that it is difficult, if not impossible, to photograph through masses of muscle or fat, with the process as at present employed. For example, a surgeon attempted to photograph a bullet, embedded in the fleshy part of the leg, and although the plate was "exposed" for a considerable length of time—until, in fact, the patient became utterly wearied—the desired picture was not obtained. Then again, it was thought that it would be possible to photograph any stones which might exist in the gall-bladder; but in a case in which such concretions were known to be present, the photographic rays again failed to penetrate the intervening structures. Still, it is probable that, as the method becomes more utilised, improvements will be effected in the process, and that thus results will be obtained which cannot at present be predicted, but the importance of which can be hardly over estimated.

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