

been nursing a case of typhoid fever, and thought she had it herself. Despite this, it was not until the Wednesday morning that the Superintendent informed the owner of the "Home" of the nurse's illness; and this lady, a Mrs. Baker, then appears to have asked the nurse whether she would like to go to the hospital. The Superintendent thought the nurse was sufficiently conscious at the time to understand the question, and it apparently caused no surprise to anyone that the nurse preferred to stay in the Home. There was a "fever nurse" staying in the house, and presumably for rest, and it seems she took charge of Nurse Clark. At any rate, on the Wednesday, it seems to have been distinctly understood that the patient was suffering from typhoid fever; but no doctor was sent for, and the law, which requires the presence of infectious fever to be duly notified to the sanitary authorities, was deliberately ignored. Nurse Clark grew worse and worse, and finally died on the Sunday morning. The owner of the Home, although aware of the circumstances, went to London, and when a message was sent to her asking what doctor should be called in to attend upon the patient, made no reply to the question. It transpired, at the inquest that Mrs. Baker and Miss Nation are members of a sect termed the "peculiar people," who leave the issues of life and death "to the Lord," and object to medical treatment.

The most extraordinary feature of the affair is the attitude assumed by the "fever nurse," Esther Haley, "belonging to the North-Western Hospital, London." She stated at the inquest that "she disapproved of medical aid"; that the patient was rational when she wished not to have a doctor; that it did not occur to her to suggest having a doctor; that she did not believe that Nurse Clark's life could have been saved; that she knew it was necessary to notify the presence of typhoid fever to the authorities, but it did not occur to her to tell the Superintendent of this fact.

After death occurred, a doctor was sent for—apparently in order to obtain a certificate, which was evidently refused, and very wisely under the circumstances. In summing up the evidence, the coroner made remarks with which we cordially agree. He said that it was a remarkably sad case; that he considered it a most cruel thing for the authorities of the Home to let the nurse die without

medical assistance; and that he regretted that he could not deal with the witnesses in this case, as it was impossible to prove that death would not have occurred even if a doctor had been called in. The jury found that the deceased died from typhoid fever, and added that in their opinion this was consequent upon the neglect upon the part of the authorities of the Home in not calling in medical aid.

So far as Mrs. Baker, the owner of the Home, and Miss Annie Nation, the Superintendent, are concerned, we would only express the hope that they will not exhibit in future such gross carelessness of other people's lives. If they prefer, when ill themselves, not to seek for medical advice, that is a matter for themselves alone; but they have no right to neglect that care of those who are under their charge which the most ordinary humanity demands. For the breach of the law which they committed in not notifying the presence of an infectious disease, and thus perhaps assisting in its spread amongst other people, we are glad to observe that the sanitary authorities of Dover have taken the only legal proceedings open to them. But a petty fine is little punishment for such gross neglect of duty. It is proved that they adopted no preventive measures, and if an outbreak of typhoid fever takes place in consequence amongst their fellow citizens, these ladies will be morally, if not legally, responsible for every death which follows.

But the most severe censure is, we consider, deserved by Esther Haley, who, at any rate, ought to have known better, and who has proved herself, by her own statements, to be, as a nurse, unworthy of confidence by any medical man. She has upon her oath deposed that she disapproved of medical aid, that she permitted a fellow-nurse to die without attempting to gain for her such assistance; and, finally, she had the audacity, which is typical of ignorance, to express her opinion that the nurse could not have been saved. We trust that the authorities of the "North-Western Hospital, London," will take due note of this young woman's opinions; for we have no hesitation in saying that she has, out of her own mouth, condemned herself as untrustworthy as a nurse, and a discredit to the nursing profession, her object in joining which, in the face of her expressed opinions, we are unable to understand; and for which she is evidently most unsuitable.

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