

THE jury, in returning a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence, expressed the opinion that the deceased did not receive proper treatment at the hands of the nurse, and that they did not believe her statement as to how the deceased came by her black eyes and bruises. The coroner, in addressing the nurse, remarked that the latter subject, he was afraid, would have to be gone into elsewhere another day.

WHATEVER the verdict may be "elsewhere" concerning the question of the treatment of the poor patient, we are inclined to think that a nurse, kept on duty night and day, must be exonerated from blame. It is horrible and inexcusable cruelty to any human being to deprive her of the necessary rest and sleep, demanded by nature, to enable her to perform laborious duties during the day, and it cannot be expected that a nurse, thus treated, will be in a fit condition, physically and mentally, to care for, and nurse, the sick and insane. That "two black eyes" have resulted, can surprise no sensible and humane person.

THE Duchess de Sante Theodore is endeavouring to start a training school for nurses in Italy, but it is stated that Italian women do not take kindly to training. This seems strange, as Italy has a flourishing society of midwives, who hold conferences and publish a weekly journal. All midwives are required to obtain a Government diploma before they are allowed to practise. If Italian women are able to qualify themselves as midwives there surely can be no reason why they should not learn to become skilful nurses.

We observe that, in his report to the Governors of the Richmond District Lunatic Asylum, Dr. Conolly Norman stated that "a patient complained that her arm had been broken by Nurse Rose M'Carthy, who had twisted it. He did not believe that Nurse M'Carthy purposed injuring this patient, but he considered that she was guilty of most unjustifiable roughness, and, particularly as he had reason to blame her for roughness before, that she was unfit to be retained in the service of the asylum." It was proposed by Dr. Eustace, and seconded by Mr. Walker, that Rose M'Carthy be dismissed. This resolution was supported by the Lord Mayor, and by the chairman, Colonel H. Gore Lindsay. It is greatly to be regretted that an amendment that the nurse should be reduced from her present grade of first class to the bottom of the third class, and that she should be fined £1, and reprimanded, was ultimately carried by five votes against four. There can be no doubt as to the wisdom of the opinion expressed by Dr. Norman, and we are sorry for the unfortunate patients in the Richmond Asylum. The seconder of the amendment was a

Mr. M'Carthy. Was he any relation to the nurse, we wonder?

AT Shanghai a Nursing Home was established in the latter part of last year, three sisters being brought out from England. When the question of establishing a Diamond Jubilee memorial arose the decision of the Model Settlement was in favour of a British Nursing Institute. It is now proposed that the existing experimental Nurses' Home should be taken as the nucleus of the proposed British Diamond Jubilee Victoria Nursing Institute, and that the Institute should be amalgamated with the General Hospital with a view to improving the nursing of that institution. The present nurses are members of a French charitable order, whose religious obligations interfere in some directions with what are usually considered the duties of nurses. It appears, however, the nursing has been carried on by the same Order ever since the foundation of the hospital, and, on the whole, with satisfaction to the patients and their friends. But when the hospital was established trained nurses were not available; in the interval which has since elapsed great advances have been made in the art of nursing, and it is perhaps not unnatural that our Shanghai friends, while recognizing the good work done by the French sisters in the past, should wish to bring the arrangements of their hospital more up to date. That, however, is a local question for Shanghai, on which we will not venture an opinion; our purpose is rather to direct attention to one or two points upon which Shanghai's experience may with advantage be considered by Hong Kong.

FROM an article in the *China Gazette* we learn that the receipts of the Experimental Nursing Home for the first half of the present year were Tls. 665, while the expenditure amounted to about Tls. 2000. The figures for the short time the institution was in operation in 1896 are also given, but they include all the preliminary expenses, while the income had scarcely commenced, so that it would serve no useful purpose to introduce them here. At the commencement of the present year, however, the institution was in full working order, and, contrary to expectations, it has failed to cover its working expenses, showing instead a loss of some Tls. 1300 for the half-year. Whether this loss was caused by the scale of fees being too low, by the nurses not having been fully employed, or by their having been engaged on necessitous non-paying cases, is not stated. Information on these points would be useful in arranging the working scheme of the Hongkong Nursing Institute.

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