

training several for the mainland and islands of Argyleshire."

IN speaking at a recent meeting at Inverness, Sheriff Scott Moncrieff said that the work of district nurses was of immense value, especially in the Highlands of Scotland, where the grossest ignorance and superstition prevailed. Instances had been brought under his own notice, in a semi-official way, where, owing to the superstitious feeling of the neighbourhood—in cases in which there were no causes for alarm—the conduct of the people had been such as would discredit the plains of India, not to speak of the Highlands of Scotland. Unhappily, ignorance on the simplest matters of nursing detail are not confined to these somewhat out of the way regions. Quite recently a Coroner's inquest was held at Nottingham on the body of a child two years old. This unfortunate infant was scalded about the face, shoulders, and arms, in a neighbour's house. The neighbour rubbed carbolic soap over the seat of the injury, and eventually took the child home with the "skin hanging about its face." No doubt the neighbour intended to act kindly, but, owing to her ignorance, she acted in a way which could scarcely have been exceeded for cruelty. The agony caused by rubbing carbolic soap (probably crude) upon the raw scalded surface must have been extreme, while exposure to the air materially increased the danger of the condition. Little wonder that the child died of blood-poisoning in the Children's Hospital. We do not think that the money contributed to the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute this year could be more usefully employed than by engaging thoroughly trained nurses to teach working women the elements of nursing.

EACH of the nurses engaged in the public hospitals in Maidstone, and in district work in connection with the epidemic, is to be presented with a silver medal, as a token of the appreciation of the townspeople, of the services rendered by them at this crisis. The presentations will be made at a conversazione to be given by the Mayor on December 8th. The medals will be inscribed "In loving memory of Maidstone." The recipients, including volunteer nurses, will number nearly 250. It is also intended to distribute bronze medals to the members of the Maidstone Volunteer Medical Staff Corps and others who have helped in night nursing.

THE Chelsea Guardians would do well to inquire very thoroughly into the case of Miss Corfield, as she is the second nurse on the staff of the Chelsea Infirmary who has sustained the irreparable loss of an eye from contracting ophthalmia in the performance of her duty. The following letter has been addressed to the Infirmary Board by the nurse's brother and has appeared on the agenda:—

"Gentlemen,—I wish to lay before you the case of my sister, a staff nurse at the Infirmary under your control. She has lately lost her right eye in the course of her duties at the Infirmary. The facts of the case, in brief, are these:—During the last summer she was sent by the Matron to Ward 3 to take the place of Staff-nurse Harvey, who was transferred to the children's ward, in place of Nurses Halkett and Howes, who were suffering from scarlet fever. I understand that the number of beds in Ward 3 was thirty-two, and the staff to nurse this ward consisted of a charge nurse, my sister, and one probationer. In this Ward 3 there were seven cases of ophthalmia, three of which were serious. Having received no instructions to the contrary, she nursed these cases with the rest, in the ordinary course of her duty. Whilst thus engaged, she contracted this form of ophthalmia. The medical staff did all in their power to save the eye, but in spite of their endeavours the eye had to be sacrificed. I, myself, was present at the operation, which, as you are doubtless aware, was performed by Mr. Juler, at the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital, Charing Cross, on September 25th. In view of these facts, I, as her natural guardian, write to you, gentlemen, in the first instance, to ask what you of your generosity feel inclined to do in the matter of compensation. I would also ask you to consider the matter in regard to its being a most serious loss to any young woman, more especially to one who had bright prospects and was engaged to be married.—I have the honour to be, gentlemen, yours very faithfully, CARRUTHERS CORFIELD, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P.Lond., and L.S.A."

On the proposition of Mr. Jeffery, the matter was referred to the General Committee.

AFTER the unjustifiable method adopted by some Boards of Guardians, the Camberwell Guardians, who practically discharged (by demanding their resignations) three nurses, have now granted them testimonials, so that those women whom the Camberwell Guardians consider untrustworthy are recommended by them for employment in other institutions. Either the Guardians were convinced that the nurses were unsuitable to have charge of sick people, and demanded their resignations for that reason—in which case the Guardians are in duty bound not to give them testimonials—or they know that the nurses are not guilty, and had a right to a personal recommendation. This last act upon the part of the Camberwell Guardians convicts them of injustice to the nurses, or gross injustice to the public.

WE are glad to see that *Truth* is exposing the mismanagement of the Camberwell Guardians, and we consider its strictures absolutely justified. We regret to learn that there are several ladies on this board, considering the neglect of the poor little helpless children. *Truth* says:—

"It appears that prior to the publication of the article in last week's *Truth* on the Camberwell Infirmary, the children suffering from measles had been removed from the condemned block of buildings in which they were housed at the time when I first inquired into the facts. That they ought never to have

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