

Legal Matters.

WE are glad to observe that the scoundrel, Edward Robert Brooks, who by false representations duped two nurses by engaging them to attend fictitious cases and afterwards robbed them, has been sentenced to five years' penal servitude at the Clerkenwell Sessions. Besides the frauds practised upon the nurses, it was stated that twenty-seven other like offences had been traced to the prisoner, Mr. McConnell in passing sentence, said that the case was one of the worst he had ever had before him. Having regard to the peculiarly dastardly nature of the crimes, we think the sentence an eminently just one.

IT is now certain that the trial of "Nurse" Brandish for the murder of her illegitimate child cannot come on before the spring assizes, as Dr. Stevenson, who is making the analysis of the contents of the child's stomach, could not conclude his examination in time for the prisoner to be committed to the Assizes which commenced on December 7th. Everyone will regret the unavoidable delay which in the case of the accused being committed to the Assizes, will keep this terrible charge hanging over her for some months. It is to be regretted that "Nurse" Brandish still appears in the dock in nursing uniform, and that remarks as to the becoming nature of the costume are being circulated in the press. Whether guilty or not guilty, we think that the instinct of a woman who had the interests of the nursing profession at heart, would be to keep at least the outward and visible sign of her calling out of the dock.

Colonial Nursing Association.

THE First Annual General Meeting of the Colonial Nursing Association was held on Monday last at the Imperial Institute, Lord Loch presiding. It was stated that the scheme—which aimed at helping financially those places in the Colonies which could show that they were greatly in need of nurses, but could not entirely defray the necessary expense—was in successful operation, and that the Association was now the recognized source whence the Colonial Office draws its supply of matrons and nurses for Government Hospitals in Crown Colonies. We hope that the Colonial Office insists that the standard of training received by these nurses is not lower than that demanded in the Navy, Army, and Indian Army Nursing Services, as well as by the Local Government Board. Colonial Nurses have often exceptionally responsible and varied duties to perform, and it is of the highest importance that their training should be thorough.

The Professional Idea.

An Address delivered before the Graduating Class of the Nurse Training School at the Pennsylvania Hospital, October 29th, 1897.

By Dr. J. C. WILSON,

A Member of the Visiting Staff.

YOU have completed your studies in the Training School for Nurses in the Pennsylvania Hospital, have passed the examinations which are regarded as the test of your proficiency as nurses, and will this evening receive the diplomas that certify to these facts. You are now about to enter upon a wider field of activity; to present yourselves to the public as persons qualified to discharge certain technical and professional duties.

While here you have learned many things. I have been much impressed, in looking over the list of your studies, at the extent and variety of the matters that have been taught you. It is a long intellectual journey from the structure of the human body, up through the principles of bandaging to the ethics of nursing, and when we find that you must understand the care of the insane, the technique of abdominal surgery, and something of electricity, it would appear that many departments of human knowledge have paid tribute to the completeness of your education.

Much of this knowledge will be obviously and constantly of use to you. Some of it you will find to bear only indirectly and not very clearly upon your work, but I desire especially to impress upon you the fact that it is this knowledge, the immediate utility of which is not apparent to you, that is of the greatest and most lasting importance. Surely much study is a weariness of the flesh, and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow, but the human intellect in modern times turns to the increase of knowledge with a fervor that makes no count of sorrow. Let us try to understand why so much that is not at first sight clearly and directly useful has been taught you, and how such knowledge is to be of service to you. In order to do this, it is necessary for us to go back through these years of pupilage and contrast your mental attitude at the beginning, toward the work that you undertook, with your present views concerning that work.

Most of you entered upon nursing as a means of livelihood; some of you merely as a career, tempting in contrast to enforced idleness, or misdirected attempts to utilize your native abilities and energies. I feel sure that in those forming both these groups, the incidental desire to be of service to your fellow creatures, to do good, was a determining influence of no little importance. There are doubtless others among you—in every nurse-class there are such—who have taken up nursing as a life-work,

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