

proprietress of the hotel therefore detained Mrs. McQuade's boxes, and that lady brought an action to recover them. A counter claim was made by Mrs. Gardiner for £988.

The case was heard in the Queen's Bench, before Mr. Justice Bruce and a special jury. The jury ultimately returned a verdict for the plaintiff, for the restoration of the boxes, with damages £50. On the counter claim they found for the defendant, damages £22 10s.

It appears to us that the justice meted out to the hotel proprietor is somewhat hard. We should advise her when a case of enteric fever next occurs in her house to insist upon its removal, both for her own sake and for the well being of the public. This appears to us to be the most advisable course to pursue from all points of view.

THE death of a patient in the Workhouse Hospital at Crumpsall, a quarter of an hour after Batley's sedative had been given in mistake for the chloral-bromide which was ordered, draws once more attention to the fact, which public institutions are apparently slow to learn, of the extreme danger of keeping poisons in the same cupboard as ordinary medicines. The Superintendent of Nurses gave evidence that the poison cupboard was always locked at night, but Batley's mixture being frequently required, this was left in the care of the nurse of the ward. Apparently, however, the chloral-bromide must be left out also, as the nurse evidently did not think it necessary to ask for the key of the poison cupboard in order to obtain it.

THE medical evidence at the inquest was to the effect that death was due to cerebral hæmorrhage, induced by consumption, and that it was impossible to discover whether death had been accelerated by the administration of the Batley's mixture, the woman not only being out of her mind, but also a mass of disease. Batley's mixture was put apart from the other poisons during the night, because much inconvenience would be caused if it were locked up. The nurse might have to be away from her patients for an hour, while seeking the night superintendent in order to obtain the key.

THE jury, in returning a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence, censured the night nurse, as well as the head nurse, who were, in their opinion, guilty of gross carelessness. They recommended that bottles containing poison should be kept in a cupboard set apart for them, which should be in charge of one person only.

WITH this recommendation we entirely agree, and are of opinion that it should be in force in every hospital. There can be no doubt that all poisons

should be under lock and key, and that the key of the cupboard should be in the care, in the day time, of the ward sister, and at night of the head nurse in each ward if the night superintendent is not easily accessible. Poisons used for testing purposes should also be kept under lock and key. It is not easy to understand why Batley's mixture should be excepted from the list of poisons, as it contains a large proportion of opium. It seems to be in special favour in Manchester, we well remembered many years ago how frequently it used to be prescribed after operations, and how as a probationer we were required to administer it. It cannot be too rigidly insisted upon that all poisons should be administered only by responsible persons.

"Red Cross" writes to the *Daily Graphic* a long letter, entitled "A Reproach and an Appeal," pointing out

"The curious anomaly that we, as a fighting nation, accord so little honour to our soldiers. But I would like to briefly set forth the position of the soldier in hospital, and point out the utter neglect on the part of the community to accord him the least attention or generosity while he is convalescing or dying from wounds and illness contracted in the pursuit of duty."

It is just because we are primarily a commercial and *not* a martial people that the care of our sick soldiers is so much neglected.

"Red Cross" continues:—

"At this season of the year gifts of flowers and fruit are showered with too great lavishness on the civil hospitals, whose wards are often filled to repletion with blossoming plants and gay bouquets. Baskets of strawberries and other delicious fruits arrive in generous quantity to vary the somewhat non-luxurious nature of the hospital commissariat. These decorations and delicacies are shared by the criminal, the worthless, and the flotsam and jetsam always to be found in a civil hospital ward. But it never seems to occur to anybody that some of these delightful gifts might prove acceptable to the malaria-stricken, armless, legless, and sick soldiers in the military hospitals. I am informed on authority absolutely unimpeachable that year in year out not a single flower or a solitary strawberry reaches the sick soldiers in one of our largest military hospitals. And I am further informed that such a sin of omission is the rule rather than the exception, and applies to the military hospitals generally.

Workhouses are often well supplied in these particulars, "submerged-tenth" paupers are petted and pampered, and, if one may judge from recent popular outbursts, the philanthropist at large is longing for an opportunity to flood the convict prisons with orchids and hot-house grapes. But the sick soldier—the man from the West African swamps, fresh from the hardships of the North-west frontier—receives nothing. The military hospitals are left flowerless, fruitless, and giftless, to such a degree as to emphasize the fact that we are most ungrateful to our scarlet-coated defenders.

In the hope that a knowledge of such national neglect needs only to be brought home to the public mind to

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