

brandy. When the journey was at last ended, the patient was dead.

The relieving officer gave evidence that they had two ambulances, but the one without india-rubber tyres was sent by the contractor, who was supposed to send an attendant. He produced a receipt in which attendance was charged for, the driver having got a man to assist him. The driver was supposed to carry stimulants.

The driver in his evidence stated that the ambulance shook a great deal, but that he drove as steadily as was possible. On the way he stopped to buy brandy. It was only after reaching the infirmary that he was told there was some in a box under the seat.

The Coroner drew attention to the fact that a similar death had occurred a year or two ago, when the jury had sent a rider to the Guardians, recommending that a skilled person should be placed in charge of ambulance patients, and reaffirmed this opinion. The driver, said the Coroner, did not even know that he had stimulants in his charge.

A Juror having remarked that the Guardians ought to exercise greater supervision over the contractors, the jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence, and added the following rider, which the Coroner promised to send to the Marylebone Guardians:

"That in all cases a trained attendant should accompany a patient conveyed on an ambulance. We consider the ambulance in use is unsatisfactory, and should have rubber tyres, or the jolting otherwise prevented."

We hope this second recommendation from a Coroner's jury may have the effect of impressing the Guardians with the necessity for action, in the matter of providing proper means for the removal of the sick. It is to be regretted that no Lady Guardians have so far taken up this matter, and we are of opinion that had any trained nurse been on the Board, the consideration of so important a question could not have been overlooked. In our opinion the mistake lies in the removal of the sick by contract, by persons having no experience in the care of the sick. The Marylebone Infirmary has a reputation for caring well for its patients when once they are inside its walls, but the Guardians might well—indeed, we believe it to be their imperative duty—extend their consideration for the sick. Why should not so large an Infirmary as that of Marylebone have its own ambulance, as is the case with the Metropolitan Asylums' Board, and send a nurse, in every

case with the ambulance, to superintend the removal of the patient, and take charge of him during the journey? This is a necessary improvement, and in a parish which contributes so largely to the support of its Infirmary, we do not think that the establishment of an efficient ambulance service would have an appreciable effect upon the rates; but even so, the duty should be undertaken. More medical men and nurses reside in Marylebone than in any other part of London, and they would recognize the necessity for reform in this respect. It is to be regretted that in a parish in which the medical and nursing element preponderates that the representatives of both professions are not pressed into the service for public work. We are of opinion that this might be done to the great advantage of the residents.

### Annotations.

#### FOLLOWING THE FLAG.

THE terrible news that reached Sierra Leone recently, as to the fate of the daughter of an American Missionary who was attacked and murdered up-country, is, in the opinion of a contemporary, sufficient reason for prohibiting women going to colonies which are still on the outskirts of civilization, either as nurses, missionaries, wives or daughters. We are not in agreement with our contemporary, and we feel sure that the Nursing Profession is with us in our belief that wherever the British Flag goes, and British people need the attendance of skilled nurses, there it is their duty to follow, and they claim the right, in the exercise of their profession, to perform this duty, and, side by side with men, to encounter the risks involved. It is one thing to urge that male nurses should be sent, but quite another to find the male nurses, for, at present, we are in this country, in the anomalous position of having various institutions which send out male nurses to nurse the sick, while there is no general hospital which admits them for training.

British women nurses are therefore bound to see to it that wherever their countrymen who have contracted sickness in service of their country are to be found, there they also are at hand to nurse back to life those who would otherwise, perhaps, succumb to disease. To hold up a lower standard would tend to degrade the position of nursing from that of an honourable profession to a calling to be pursued in times of safety, and avoided as soon as danger

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