

herself a dressmaker. There seemed, therefore, no reason however remote to associate this person with nursing. Nevertheless, the jury, in returning a verdict of death from natural causes, added: "The jury further say that Nurse Mary Fiddler is deserving of censure in endeavouring to withhold information respecting nurse children, and in desiring to mislead the Court, and they further say that, in their opinion, she is not a fit person to have charge of nurse children."

If this jury had realized the discredit brought upon an honorable profession by the use of the word nurse in this connection, we feel sure they would have worded their verdict differently. It is surely time that the use of the term nurse was restricted to those who have a right to it, otherwise it will become absolutely meaningless.

MANNERS MAKETH THE MAN.

WE think the ratepayer, who recently applied to the Kingston Guardians to know why he should be snubbed by their officials, had reason on his side. The ratepayer, Mr. Lawrance, of Hawk's Road, Norbiton, stated in a letter to the Guardians that a few days previously Nurse Davison, of the Kingston Nursing Institution, called at his house for a glass of water for a poor woman lying ill in the broiling sun. He had the woman removed into his house, and his wife attended to her. The nurse advised him to get the woman removed to the workhouse infirmary, and he accordingly called on the relieving officer, Mr. Herrington, to obtain an order of admission, but found he was away. In the evening, Dr. Donald, the workhouse medical officer, who was called in when passing, said the woman was clearly suffering from heat stroke. At midnight, Mr. Lawrance again applied to the relieving officer, who spoke to him from his bedroom window, and called him the "biggest silly" for taking the woman in. Mr. Herrington said he was aware of his application, and his office hours were from 9 till 11 a.m. He afterwards banged the window down and retired. Mr. Lawrance then visited the master at the workhouse, who also appeared at his bedroom window. The master said he could not admit the woman without an order from the relieving officer. Mr. Lawrance explained that he had applied without result to the relieving officer, and asked advice of the master, who exclaimed that he was not there to give advice, and banged down the window. The unfortunate ratepayer then

went to the police station, where he was treated with respect, but found that the police could do nothing for him. He and his wife, therefore, did what they could to make the woman comfortable; and twenty-four hours after his first application, the relieving officer attended. The woman was ultimately removed to the workhouse. Mr. Lawrance wished to know why he, a ratepayer, should be treated in this manner. If he had put the woman in the street, and she had died there, he would have have been called inhuman; but because he helped her, he was called silly.

We are of opinion that Mr. Lawrance had just cause of complaint, and are glad to notice that the Board in no way supported the conduct of its officials. Official manners, as in this case, frequently leave very much to be desired. There is no reason why because men and women are invested with a brief authority they should be impertinent to those who have every right to apply to them for assistance.

A PAUPER'S CHOICE.

At a recent meeting of the Newton Abbot Guardians, an inmate of the workhouse appeared before the Board to enquire whether it was lawful for him to be put to look after the imbeciles in the house, as he had just returned from fourteen days in gaol for refusing to do this work. In answer to a question put by Dr. Ley as to "whether the Local Government Board laid down the legality or illegality of placing an inmate in charge of an insane patient," the clerk replied that the master's action in ordering the pauper to look after the patient was justified. Dr. Ley said that this was not an answer to his question, upon which the clerk read the law on the subject.

We leave others to decide the legality of the question, although if it is permissible under the present Local Government Board Regulations to place paupers in charge of insane patients, the sooner the regulations are altered, we think, the better. We desire however to draw attention to the unhappy fate of an imbecile patient dependent upon the unskilled and unwilling nursing attention of this pauper, a man who demonstrated his repugnance to the task assigned to him by preferring to go to gaol to fulfilling it. Surely the State owes better care than this to the sick poor committed to its charge. We are sure that the feelings of every true nurse will be outraged that such a thing is possible at the end of the nineteenth century.

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