

It is regrettable that our contemporary makes no suggestions as to the measures which should be adopted for the organization and discipline of the nursing profession. Those who believe that legal registration is the requisite antidote for the evils which exist, have a strong case if no other remedy can be suggested. For ourselves we have for the last thirteen years pleaded publicly and privately for the legal registration of nurses, in justice both to the public and themselves, and we have no doubt that this measure will eventually be obtained.

* * *

THE Infirmary Committee of the St. George's Union have decided to make a thorough enquiry into the reasons which lead to the resignations of so many of their nurses and probationers. At the last meeting of the Board of Guardians the Chairman stated that they "must be spending a little fortune in advertising. Every week advertisements are issued, and at every meeting there is a batch of resignations."

* * *

THE inquest on the body of David Scott, of the 2nd Dragoon Guards, who was shot while struggling to take a rifle from Private Brian, of the South Wales Borderers, while attempting to commit suicide in the third station hospital at Aldershot, appears to prove that reforms are necessary in the arrangements of military hospitals at home as well as abroad. At the inquest, which was opened on the 8th inst. at Aldershot, the coroner said that it was one of the most remarkable cases that he had ever had to investigate. Here was a man confined to the observation ward, and yet allowed to escape, seize a rifle and attempt to shoot himself. A man who, in the act of self destruction, caused the death of another person who tries to prevent the rash act is a murderer. If the jury found that this man's death was caused by his endeavouring to prevent the suicide, then it would be their duty to return a verdict of wilful murder against Brian, leaving it to a higher tribunal to determine the state of his mind at the time. There were very strict regulations with regard to the treatment of men in guards under observation, and he should particularly direct the attention of the jury to the consideration of the question whether there had been gross neglect or not.

* * *

THE corporal of the guard, who was the first witness, said Brian was a prisoner for drunkenness, and not for illness, as before stated. The evidence of this witness was so much at variance with the information given to the police that the

coroner adjourned the inquest that all papers and documents referring to the matter might be produced.

* * *

At the adjourned inquest held last Monday, the corporal of the guard said that he received Brian over from the relieved guard. He had no idea he was insane, and had received no instructions concerning him. About half-past two p.m. he saw Brian with the muzzle of a rifle in his mouth, and trying to reach the trigger with his right hand. He at once closed with him and shouted for help. A man came to his assistance, and in the struggle for the rifle Brian pulled the trigger. The bullet hit Scott in the stomach just as he was entering the guard-room.

* * *

In the medical evidence it was stated that Brian was suffering from melancholia. The guard reports show that from August 13th he was put in the prison ward for being drunk in hospital. It does not appear that the guard who had charge of the ward, or the orderly in attendance, had received any instructions as to how the inmates of the ward were to be treated. One guard said the prisoners told him they were allowed to walk round the yard, so he let them out.

* * *

Eventually the jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder" against Brian, and in a rider they expressed the hope that the military authorities would take greater care in future that ball ammunition was not served out to guards in time of peace.

* * *

THE coroner said he must say that he had not received that assistance from the military authorities in investigating this matter that he ought to have had. Difficulties had been thrown in the way of obtaining the necessary documentary evidence, and the accounts of the occurrence given to the police to enable them to investigate the case had been altogether misleading.

* * *

At a recent meeting of the Kendal Board of Guardians the Hon. Mrs. Cropper brought forward a motion of which she had previously given notice for the consideration of the question of a trained nurse for Milnthorpe Workhouse. In doing so she said it had been suggested to her that she should put off this motion until there had been a meeting of the joint committee to consider the rearrangement of the inmates of the two workhouses, but however they might arrange the inmates no doubt the sick women would be placed in Milnthorpe Workhouse, and she thought

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)