

the wild beast in man. The moment order ends crime begins, as if the real preventive were the police, and not any improvement in the dispositions of men. Fortunately, if only fifty will combine on the right side a thousand will follow, or skulk away into quietness."

WE have received from the Matron of an important provincial training school a sample of a red mackintosh which is soft and pliable in texture, and which, we are informed, is "really splendid stuff" and "wears for years." Mackintosh is such a costly item of expenditure in hospitals, and in many instances so unsatisfactory in use, that we think our readers will be glad to know of one which has proved satisfactory in use. Like most good things, it is expensive, being about 8s. 6d. a yard, the cost varying a little with current prices, but we are told that it more than justifies its cost by its durability. It is obtainable from Messrs. Browne, Bowling Green, Leicester.

DURING the past year the failures of two nurses have been recorded amongst those of persons who have become insolvent.

AT a recent meeting of the Dudley Board of Guardians, the Visiting Committee submitted a report with reference to a complaint made by the Superintendent Nurse as to an alleged scarcity of clothing and linen for the Infirmary inmates. The Committee were of opinion that there had been a shortage, but they believed the difficulty would not recur. Mrs. Powell proposed that the report be sent back to the Committee for further investigation. She alleged that patients had had to sit about in sheets until the things were dried, and had suffered much discomfort. She also asked if imbeciles had been thrashed in the Workhouse, and if so, whether a record of such punishment had been made in a book kept for the purpose. The Chairman said he would reply to the question at the next meeting. The report of the Visiting Committee was adopted.

THE need of an adequate nursing staff in the Workhouse Infirmary was painfully demonstrated at a recent inquest at Canterbury on the body of James Wells, when a verdict of manslaughter was returned against Walter Carter, an inmate of the Infirmary. The nurse, who had all night attended Wells, who was dying, left the ward for a moment, and while she was absent Carter was seized with an epileptic fit. He attacked Wells, dragged him out of bed, and injured him severely before help arrived. Wells died three hours later. The jury, in returning a verdict

of manslaughter against Carter, added a rider to the effect that separate accommodation was required for epileptic patients, and that an additional nurse was required at the Workhouse Infirmary.

A PAINFUL incident recently occurred in the Victoria Hospital, Blackpool, when a patient suffering from pneumonia overpowered his nurses and made his escape. The assistance of the police was summoned by telephone, and they found the man lying dead in a field with two nurses standing over him. It is believed that acute mania supervened on the pneumonia and that the patient died of syncope.

AT a recent meeting of the Newry Board of Guardians a letter was read from the Local Government Board stating that they had before them the reports of the Superintendent Nurse and Wardmaster Lynch relating to the case of an idiot inmate of the Workhouse named Joseph Finnegan, who fell into a bath on the 12th July while the hot water was flowing, and was severely scalded, and they desired to state that no explanation was offered by Wardmaster Lynch, who was in charge of Finnegan at the time of the occurrence, as to how it happened that hot water flowed from the cold water tap, which he said he turned on, nor did he explain why he did not report the matter to the Superintendent Nurse until eight o'clock on the morning of the 13th July, although the man was scalded on the previous evening. They considered that the wardmaster displayed great carelessness in connection with the case, and they had caused the circumstance to be noted against him in the books of the department. At the same time, they requested that Lynch might be informed that he could not be permitted to retain his position in the event of any similar neglect of duty being established against him.

THE matter certainly appears to need explanation. Even had an accident occurred by the patient "falling into the bath," there is no excuse for not reporting the occurrence immediately to the Superintendent Nurse.

CONSIDERABLE attention has been attracted of late to the Japanese nurses on the Red Cross Hospital Ship *Hakuai Maru*, and, indeed, they appear to have attained a very high standard of excellence, and to merit appreciation; but the consensus of opinion seems to be that Japanese maidens look hideous in the nursing uniform adopted by the Anglo-Saxon race, and we can well believe it. Why should they be

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)