

nursing of any infectious disease, are commonly sufficient. Many serums have been tried, but have not, so far, proved themselves dependable. Yersin's plague serum was given a fair trial as a curative agent, but was a failure. Yet as a prophylactic, given in hypodermic doses of 10 c.c. ($\frac{1}{2}$ an ounce of fluid) to an adult, and 5 c.c. to a child, it appeared to be useful. We had no cases of friends remaining beside their sick (one was allowed to each patient), ever developing plague ten days after inoculation—which was considered the maximum limit of incubation. If they developed it before that period, it was decided that they had come into hospital with it in their system. Of Haffkine's serum I cannot speak, as I saw very few cases in which it had been tried.

It may fall to a nurse's duty even here, to do search work in the homes of the people of any infected, or suspected district; for hiding cases would probably be resorted to here, as well as in India.

She will only need a clinical thermometer, quick observation, tact, energy, and determination, to do the work thoroughly. The symptoms before enumerated would be sought, and on finding a case, it would be at once despatched to the isolation hospital. It is now generally known that rats carry infection, and a history of sick, diseased rats generally precedes an outbreak of plague. Where such have been found, a crusade against the whole rat tribe should be rigorously carried out. In India our custom was, on finding a case, to order the patient's bed and linen to be burnt, all the people of the house to be removed into a quarantine camp, a good many of the tiles to be stripped off the roof, windows opened, and the house disinfected, white-washed, locked up and officially sealed for a month. All this would probably be done by the sanitary authority here, but something of the kind would be the routine practice.

State Registration of Nurses.

ANOTHER PLEA.

ERNESTEIN KATZ, 48, midwife, convicted of the manslaughter of Kate Kennedy, by performing an unlawful operation, was, last week, sentenced to 10 years' penal servitude at the Old Bailey.

The crimes of a certain type of midwife are often placed to the account of the nursing profession by an indiscriminating public. It is a strong plea for the State Registration of fully qualified nurses that this is the case. They have a right to be distinguished from this class of person by means of a legal Register of their qualifications.

The Organization of Nurses' Leagues.

WE have been asked for information as to the best methods of organizing Leagues of Nurses, and we therefore propose to give the broad general principles upon which it appears to us advisable that such Leagues should be founded.

THE USE OF LEAGUES.

What is the use of Leagues? some one asks. Well, in the first place, they unite together the nurses of one training school or of one institution, they keep past and present members in touch with one another, and if, as in the case of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, a journal is published containing the names and addresses of the members, it enabled all members of the school to communicate with one another.

Another advantage is that, in the management of the League, the members learn the methods of the conduct of business at public meetings, and this stands them in good stead when they attend larger meetings. For instance, many members of the Royal British Nurses' Association, during the controversy which took place before the new Bye-Laws were passed, objected strongly to the way in which all real power was wrested from them in their own Association, but they remained dumb at the meetings whilst those better versed in business matters successfully carried their points because of their superior knowledge of the conduct (or misconduct) of business.

This brings us to the most important function of a League, which is to enable every member—that is to say, every certificated nurse belonging to it—to express her opinion upon her own professional affairs, for the chain of nursing organization is now complete and by its means every fully qualified nurse can be represented by delegation on the International Council of Nurses, the most comprehensive nursing society in existence; thus the enfranchisement of the profession is ensured.

A suggested plan of organization is as follows: The graduates of a Training School or Nurses' Society, organise themselves into Leagues, for such purposes as seem good to them; but we would suggest that those set forth by the Matrons' Council, as the objects of the National League, seem to us most desirable. These School Leagues can send their delegates to represent them on the National League, which can affiliate with the Matrons' Council to form the National Council of Nurses. This Council in its turn can be represented by duly accredited delegates on the International Council, which will hold a Quinquennial

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)