

The registration of trained nurses, which, if properly carried out, should eliminate the "frauds" from an honourable profession.

Faithfully yours,

Saddleworth. COLIN CAMPBELL.

March 3, 1901.

Army Nursing Notes.

We regret to report the death of Sister Violet Buchanan in the Civil Hospital, Kimberley, from enteric fever, contracted at Pretoria whilst on the Army Nursing Service Reserve. Sister Buchanan had lately resigned from the Army Service, and been appointed Staff Nurse at Kimberley. She did not live, however, to take up her new work.

Many Nursing Sisters have fallen victims to enteric fever in South Africa, and we regret to note that Sister Dora Peifer, of the New Zealand Corps, is dangerously ill at Pretoria; also Sisters K. McGonigal and L. B. Williams at Johannesburg.

Letters received from Sister Owen describing her experiences in South Africa have a pathetic interest at the present moment. Writing home from Simmer and Jack Hospital, Elandsfontein, she says:—

"I came on night duty last Friday. I just love it, and I've plenty to do. All my patients are in tents, and I'm just happy walking about the whole night, popping in and out of the tents. I have seven tents of enterics, each holding six cases, and about a dozen tents of mixed cases which I have to look after. Enteric and dysentery are very much on the increase, as it was expected they would be, and I'm sorry to say that deaths are much more numerous now. They come to us from other hospitals that are full, so very bad that they have no chance from the first. I have to carry a lantern about with me, as, although the camp is lighted with electricity still it is quite dangerous to walk about without one, for there are so many trenches and ditches made for the rains. It takes me five minutes to go from one end of my tents to the other." . . . And later she writes: "I'm just run off my legs now, when I'm on duty; and when I've finished in the morning, I'm too tired for anything. I've had 24 more patients handed over to my tender care, most of them enterics. They are getting more numerous every day. The place seems so full of the germs that patients who come in for other diseases soon develop enteric. Don't be in the least nervous if I should take it, as I quite think I am likely to do, for I should not be nervous myself at all if I were to get it."

It seems almost incredible that the Nursing Sisters in many instances continue to be very much over-worked in South Africa, whilst in others we hear of their spending weeks at hotels doing nothing, but without a Head of the Army Nursing Service at the Cape this disorganized state of affairs is sure to continue.

Legal Matters.

ANOTHER NURSE FRAUD.

Mary Ann Conlan, described as a hospital nurse, was recently charged at the Derby Assizes with contracting a bigamous marriage with James Wilkinson, at Buxton, in 1899, during the lifetime of her husband. According to the evidence the prisoner and her husband both lived in the same village in County Monaghan. Subsequent to an offer of marriage from him, which she refused, she went to Manchester, where Conlan followed her, and they were married. After the marriage he went straight back to Ireland. In 1897 he again came to England, and they lived together for a week at Southport. At the end of this time they quarrelled over religious matters and separated. Later Mrs. Conlan, who was employed at a Buxton Hospital, met James Wilkinson, also a native of her own village, and went through a form of marriage with him. Mr. Justice Lawrence sentenced the prisoner to one day's imprisonment, from which it would appear that bigamy is not a very heinous offence in the eyes of the learned judge.

A PAINFUL CASE.

A case of an intensely painful nature was tried at the Kent Assizes, before Mr. Joseph Walton, K.C., a Commissioner of Assize, owing to the illness of Mr. Justice Grantham. We have previously referred to this case, but have hesitated long before dealing with it fully. As, however, it concerns a member of the nursing profession we think it well to do so. The prisoner, Ernest Pring, was charged with assaulting a nurse at Tunbridge Wells, or, in the alternative with committing an indecent assault. The evidence was that about 9 o'clock of the night in question, the prosecutrix was followed by the accused, who put his hands over her mouth, threw her down and assaulted her, threatening to kill her if she did not keep still. The prisoner set up an alibi as his defence. The Judge said that undoubtedly there was an assault, the only question was as to identity. The jury returned a verdict of guilty, and the Deputy Judge eventually passed a sentence of fifteen months hard labour.

We venture to think that, had there been a woman on the Bench or women on the jury, the prisoner would not have got off with so light a sentence. It is, perhaps, difficult for a man to estimate the feelings of a virtuous woman after such a horrible and degrading experience. In our opinion, ten years' penal servitude is the least sentence at all adequate to the gravity of the offence, and if the death sentence is ever justifiable it is surely merited for attacks of such a nature.

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