

regard to the qualifications of the nurses sent to them, and had not taken the trouble to enquire into their training. She urged that there should be State Registration for all nurses who had obtained a certain qualification of efficiency. At present there was nothing but chaos; adventuresses were going about; and the public did not know what the phrase "trained nurse" implied, the certificates only saying they had received such and such training in a certain hospital, and had done well. She hoped the Union would take the matter up, and that eventually, as there was a register of doctors, there should be one of nurses. (Hear, hear.) If the outside public demanded that they should have for their money certificated nurses—not merely bearing the certificate of a certain hospital—but that they should be registered, so that anyone might know that they were fully qualified to do the work that they professed to be able to do, then and then only would the nursing profession make the start it ought to make. She advocated that nurses during their first year of training should receive no pay beyond board and lodging, uniform, and other perquisites.

Five years ago, when we brought this question before the National Union at Croydon, there was apparently not one lay woman in the room who had ever considered the question. We hope Miss Stevenson, with her brilliant powers of expression, will continue to urge nursing reform for all it is worth.

The South Essex coroner held an inquest at Orsett on Saturday on the body of Charles Foster, thirty-eight, a patient in the small-pox isolation hospital, who died after taking a dose of carbolic solution accidentally administered by a nurse. The nurse gave evidence that deceased's medicine was by the side of another bottle containing a weak solution of carbolic acid, and immediately after she had given the patient his medicine he remarked that it was hot, and she then discovered that she had given him carbolic solution, and remedies were applied. Medical evidence showed that death was due to shock caused by deceased knowing that he had taken something other than his medicine, and partially due to his condition from small-pox. The jury, on returning a verdict of "Accidental death," expressed sympathy with the nurse.

The constant deaths of patients from carbolic poisoning are likely to continue so long as juries are led to sympathise with nurses for making "mistakes," instead of condemning them for gross carelessness when they administer poison instead of medicine, and thus kill a fellow creature.

It is time that women who are proved incapable of appreciating the great responsibility of nursing the sick, and safeguarding their lives by conscientiously keeping separate bottles containing poisonous and non-poisonous drugs, should be punished and not condoned with. We wonder what the verdict would have been if the nurse had happened to polish off a Royalty in the same summary manner, as poor Charles Foster was done to death. This poisoning of the poor by ill-trained and careless women, must be put a stop to by just reprimand, and if need be, suitable punishment, upon the parts of coroners and their juries.

A meeting of a very interesting character recently took place at the City of Dublin Nursing Institution, Baggot Street—Mrs Tracy (Lady Superintendent) and the nurses having invited a number of guests to meet and say farewell to those nurses of the institution who have been serving as army nursing sisters in South Africa, and were about to return to that country.

A large number of invitations were issued, and the gathering was large and fashionable. Sister Lawless was in South Africa since December, 1899, and experienced much in various parts of the Colonies during the war. The others, Sister Meade and Sister Johnson, arrived some days ago in the transports "Dunera" and "Mohawk," on duty with invalids, and we understand they leave Southampton again for the return trip with the "Dunera," after having had only ten or twelve days with their friends. They have been for the most part with the Imperial Yeomanry Hospital at Pretoria, working under their distinguished fellow-countryman, Colonel Kilkelly, who was the P.M.O. during the existence of the I. Y. Hospital.

During the afternoon a programme of excellent music was gone through by the nurses, and about the rooms of the institution were disposed many Boer trophies, some extremely interesting photos, and a varied collection of Boer ammunition. The Sisters had much of interest to tell of their patients, both British and Boer.

Dr. W. E. Putnam, in *American Medicine* advises the following method of taking Epsom Salts so as to avoid the taste: Use just enough water to completely dissolve the salts. From a second glass full of plain water drink two large swallows, take the salts quickly and drink the rest of the water in the second glass. He has suggested the putting up of magnesium sulphate tablets, five and ten grains, without coating.

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