

Legal Matters.**THEFTS FROM A DYING PATIENT.**

The Llandudno magistrates recently had before them a case stated by the chairman (Dr. Dalton) to be one of the most painful he had ever dealt with, that of a professional nurse, Jesse Bremner, charged with stealing a gold watch, and other valuable articles, from patients on whom she was engaged in professional attendance. In one case after the death of a patient the articles were missed, and it was found they had been pawned by the accused, who alleged that they had been given to her by her patient shortly before her death. The estimated value of the articles was £22. In the case of another patient a gold watch was lost, and the loss was discussed by a relative with the nurse who suggested that a servant who had left about that time must have taken it. The matter was placed in the hands of the police, and subsequently Inspector Griffiths received an anonymous telegram saying the watch had been found. Eventually the nurse admitted that she had stolen the watch and pawned it. She pleaded poverty and hunger as the cause.

For the defence it was urged that Nurse Bremner was the daughter of a poor mother, and had "worked herself up into the position of a nurse." Her solicitor asked that she might be dealt with under the First Offenders' Act. The Chairman, in passing sentence, said that bearing in mind the peculiar position of trust in which nurses were placed, the magistrates were unable to accede to this request. The prisoner was sentenced to three months' hard labour in the second class on each count, the sentences to run concurrently.

Most nurses will agree with the justice of this sentence, but they would like to know where Nurse Bremner received her professional training before they accept her as a member of their profession. At present they are held responsible for the misdoings of every woman who chooses to describe herself as a nurse, whether she has a right to the title or no. This is obviously unjust, and a strong argument for the legal registration of trained nurses.

ANOTHER CASE OF THEFT.

At Glasgow last week a woman described as a nurse, residing in Crosshill, was charged with stealing a large quantity of clothing from a house in Crosshill, where she was employed as a nurse. The charge was proven, and the magistrate said the accused had betrayed her trust which was a very responsible one, and as a warning to her and others, he would send her to prison for seven days.

Nursing Echoes.

*** All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



Queen Alexandra, as head and chief of the Royal Naval Nursing Service, has, by "special desire," consented to have her name associated with this branch of the Royal Navy, and henceforth it is to be known as "Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service."

During the recent visit of Queen Alexandra to the Light Cure Hospital, of Dr. Finsen, in Copenhagen, the whole institution was inspected, and the newly erected sun baths on the roof aroused keen interest and admiration.

The Queen made special inquiries as to the latest inventions for the cure of lupus, and Dr. Finsen also explained to her Majesty his new method for the treatment of hepatic diseases, which will be kept secret until the conclusion of his experiments.

The Queen talked with three English ladies who are undergoing the cure and subsequently ordered three powerful electric light lamps for the lupus cure. These are destined for the London Hospital.

An interesting discussion took place at the meeting of the St. John's House Debating Society last week, the subject before the meeting, on which two papers were read, being "To what extent are the Matrons responsible for the want of Ethics in the Modern Nurse?" The form of the question precluded discussion of the existence of a lack of ethics, and there seemed to be no doubt in the minds of all those present that the modern nurse demonstrated it to a regrettable extent.

The trend of the discussion proved that in the opinion of the meeting this defect was due in a great degree to the Matrons of the training schools. That, so far as is known, no systematic instruction is given in this country on the subject of nursing ethics by any of our Hospital Matrons throughout the three years' course of training, though at Kings College Hospital undoubtedly a high code of ethics is incidentally instilled. It was further pointed out that in many instances the practical standard maintained by the Matrons themselves left much to be desired, that the

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