

last year's epidemic of small-pox in the metropolis? We have it that during the whole time of stress the limited number of nurses who did respond were "short-handed and terribly overworked." Perhaps Mr. Holland, who is a *persona grata* with those from whom all honours flow, might "say a word" about those "good and faithful" servants who went through the epidemic, *sans* heroics and, sad to relate, *sans* reward.

The death of a patient at the Wandsworth and Clapham Infirmary was proved at the inquest held by Mr. John Troutbeck at the Battersea Coroner's Court to be due to senile meningitis following fracture of the thigh, which accident occurred on her getting out of bed during the absence of the nurse. The nurse (a probationer) stated in her evidence that she had two general and two special wards to look after, and she had to visit all four places. Dr. C. L. Baker Stares said they could not give one old lady constant personal attention, as they had only twenty-three night nurses for 722 patients, including 132 children. That was the staff allowed by the Local Government Board. The Coroner said it was obvious the nurse had plenty to do; perhaps when we approached a more ideal state the Local Government Board would be more liberal in these matters. Surely the Guardians have power to engage as many nurses as they consider necessary for the efficient care of the sick in their charge; but, no doubt, when the Local Government Board has a department to deal with nursing matters—as sooner or later it must do—with a responsible Matron-in-Chief to advise it on points of nursing organisation, it will then insist upon the maintenance of an adequate staff of nurses for both day and night duty in all the Poor-Law infirmaries.

The twenty-seventh annual meeting of the Leeds Trained Nurses' Institution was held last week at the Home, Hyde Terrace, the Rev. W. O. Burrows presiding. The report states that 196 cases had been attended, and 169 had had to be declined in consequence of the nurses being engaged when application was made. The staff now numbered eighty-six engaged in private nursing and twenty-one probationers in training at hospitals. The number of cases attended during the year was 3,202, and the visits paid by the nurses 64,032. The Committee and officers were re-elected.

We have on several occasions drawn attention to injuries sustained by patients by the carelessness of nurses with regard to hot-water-bottles. It would seem superfluous to insist that such bottles should invariably be covered by flannel bags before being placed in a patient's bed, more especially when the patient is unconscious, were not proof too frequently afforded that this is not a universal rule. Recently an action was brought by Mrs. Alice Kelsall, which

came up for hearing at the Manchester Assizes, against the proprietor of a medical and surgical home for trained nurses in Manchester. The claim was for damages on the ground that a nurse sent to attend the plaintiff was unskilful and negligent. The defendant denied the alleged negligence and counter-claimed for £63 for the services of nurses supplied to the patient for six or seven months.

The circumstances of the case were that in January of last year the plaintiff had to undergo a serious operation. It was quite successful, and, under ordinary circumstances, she would have been up in two or three weeks. On recovering from the anæsthetic administered, however, it was found that one leg had been seriously burned by a hot-water bottle from the calf downwards, causing great pain and protracted suffering, so that in July (six months after the injury) skin grafting was necessary in order to heal the wound. The pain of the operation was nothing compared with that caused by the burns. She consequently sought to recover £126, including doctor's charges and out-of-pocket expenses. She believed herself entitled to damages in addition, but, in order to avoid going into a very painful case, she would be satisfied with out-of-pocket expenses and taxed costs. The counsel for the defence having consulted with his client, the defendant consented to a verdict and judgment for £126 and costs, and withdrew her counter-claim. No one can doubt the justice of the decision. We hope the nurse through whose negligence the injury was caused will help to defray this sum.

A meeting was recently held at Towcester, the Duke of Grafton presiding, for the purpose of considering a scheme for a County Nursing Association for Northamptonshire and the Soke of Peterborough. The work done by the County Nursing Associations is entrusted to women of the artisan class who have received a short training in maternity work, and none, or next to none, in general nursing. Those who justify the employment of women with this amount of knowledge do so on the score of expense, claiming that the services of these so-called village nurses can be obtained at a cheap rate. Those who oppose it disapprove, on principle, of supplying to the poor, as nurses, women with qualifications which would not be recognised as sufficient in the case of better-class patients. At the meeting referred to, Lady Knightley, we are glad to note, supported the latter point of view, declaring that imperfectly-trained nurses were undesirable. She was able to point to the successful work of the Nursing Association in Daventry, Fawsley, and district, with which her name is associated, as a proof that the half-trained nurse should not and need not be employed, if the Association were worked on a provident basis. We are entirely in sympathy with Lady Knightley's

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