

At Belfast Assizes, on Monday, the case of Miss Sarah Glendenning, a ladies' nurse, against Dr. John Byers, a professor of midwifery in Queen's College, Belfast, for alleged breach of promise of marriage, came on for hearing. The damages were laid at £2,000. There was no appearance on behalf of the plaintiff, and judgment was accordingly entered for the defendant. The Solicitor-General represented Professor Byers, and stated that neither verbally nor by letter had his client made any promise to the plaintiff.

We offer our heartiest sympathy to Dr. Byers in the annoyance and trouble to which he has been subjected. We cannot understand any woman bringing an action for breach of promise, even when she has been badly treated, but to initiate such proceedings, and then to fail even to put in an appearance at the trial, is absolutely inexcusable. We have been so far unable to ascertain what training Miss Glendenning has received, but, as she is spoken of as a "ladies' nurse," it may be assumed that she is one of those who, after a few months' special training, undertake the care of private cases. We cannot believe that she is a thorough qualified nurse.

Dr. Smith, Local Government Board Medical Inspector, is holding a sworn inquiry in the Granard Workhouse, into complaints made in reference to the nursing arrangements in the institution, and the want of harmony which appears to exist amongst the nursing staff. The Guardians, the Sisters of Mercy who act as nurses, the Medical Officer, and the Master were all represented by their respective solicitors. The first witness examined was Dr. Joseph Kenny, the medical officer. Dr. Kenny described how he had requisitioned a trained nurse to care for a child who was nursed by a wardsmaid in such a way that her life was endangered. The nurse was sent away by the Guardians in spite of his warning that the child's life would probably be lost. The child had since died. He gave other instances of want of nursing care which, if proved, are certainly evidence of a deplorable lack of nursing as it is understood by trained nurses. As usual in Ireland, the "religious" element was an important factor, and Dr. Kenny was cross-examined as to whether he had "used language which would offend the susceptibility of the nuns," whether he had "referred to the Bishop of the Diocese as Paddy," and whether he had spoken of another Church dignitary as a perjurer in the presence of the nuns! It is true such remarks, if made, might not conduce to harmonious relations between the medical officer and the nuns; but one would scarcely suppose that they formed subject-matter for a sworn inquiry at the public expense!

The nursing school in connection with the Maison de Santé Protestante, Bordeaux, of which Dr. Anna Hamilton is Directress, may be justly proud of its unique position. It comes up to the requirements of the *Circulaire Ministerielle* (Combé's) on Nursing Schools, and is the only training-school for nurses in France which does so.

Dr. Hamilton has ended her first year as Directress of the Hospital with a good balance in hand, a proof once more that good nursing is not more costly than bad, or cleanliness than inefficiency. The nursing staff at present numbers fourteen members, but it is hoped soon to open a small maternity department in a separate pavilion, when four more pupils will be added to the staff. Dr. Hamilton, who has done excellent and arduous work in getting things into shape at the Maison de Santé, so that the right type of woman may be attracted to apply for training, is to be congratulated on the result of her efforts. When the public in France is better educated as to what is included in nurse training, no doubt "training" of ladies in a two months' course of instruction in out-patient departments, augmented by lectures, which is at present popular, will be abolished. It seems almost incredible that this can be seriously regarded as adequate training for the grave responsibilities of nursing.

The community of "Blue Nuns," who had their origin in Rome, have done nursing work in many parts of the world. From Rome they spread to Florence, then to Australia, to Chicago, to Malta, to Ireland, to London. The British Hospital in Rome, for the nursing of which these nuns are responsible, is now appealing for funds to consolidate its work. It has a claim on all who may at any time visit Rome, as it aids all who need its help, of whatever nationality.

We learn that the yellow fever hospital in connection with the Strangers' Hospital, Rio de Janeiro, which is being made mosquito-proof, will be the only one of its kind in South America when finished. At present all the patients have to be nursed under mosquito nets, a process which has various disadvantages. In the first place, the net has to be raised very frequently, when mosquitoes are liable to get inside; and, secondly, it is very difficult at night to note any changes in patients who are sleeping under nets.

A correspondent in the *Times of India* complains of the inadequacy of the arrangements for women patients in St. George's Hospital, Bombay, and expresses the belief that until new wards are actually under construction the public will not respond to appeals to support the Nurses' Fund. The present building in which the women patients are accommodated was condemned for the accom-

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