

been peculiarly painful to trained nurses, for Mrs. Sach was the proprietress of a Nursing Home at Finchley, while Mrs. Walters was stated to have been attached at one time to one of our largest metropolitan training-schools. Mrs. Sach received single girls into her home for their confinements. The children born there were "adopted" for sums, paid down, varying from £20 to £35, the mothers being told that they had been taken by rich ladies and provided with happy homes. The circumstances of Mrs. Walters being found at South Kensington Station with a dead child in her arms are well known. Suspicions were aroused as to the death of another, and ultimately both women were arrested, Walters on a charge of murder and Mrs. Sach on being an accessory before the fact, which, in the eye of the law, is equivalent to murder.

At the trial Mr. Guy Stephenson, for Mrs. Walters, suggested that the jury might find the prisoner guilty of manslaughter but nothing more, whereupon the judge interposed that he should instruct the jury to find her guilty of murder or acquit her.

On behalf of Mrs. Sach, Mr. Iycester argued that there was nothing to connect her with the crime, supposing there had been murder.

#### THE SUMMING-UP.

The Judge put the case plainly and irresistibly. If the jury were satisfied that Walters murdered the child, then, on the evidence, Mrs. Sach was undoubtedly an accessory before the fact, and that was the same as murder.

It had been proved that Mrs. Sach lied when she denied any knowledge of the murder, and that she had spent on herself the money she took for the "adoption."

After three-quarters of an hour the jury came back with a verdict of "Guilty." "Because they are women," added the foreman, "we recommend them to mercy."

"It is plain to me," said the Judge, "that you, Sach, have been the instructor of the other woman in the actual taking away of life which you have carried on. The jury have recommended you to mercy; but the reason they have given for it is such that I implore you to build little or no hope upon it."

The Judge then passed the sentence of death upon both women.

That the law of the land should be violated upon the plea of sex is unsound, providing both sexes are equal before the law.

The only just excuse for the recommendation to mercy of women criminals by male juries to male judges is that women, having been denied any participation in the making of the laws, cannot be held responsible if they violate them. For this reason they demand the vote. Give us just responsibility in preference to unjust mercy.

## 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.*



Her Majesty Queen Alexandra has approved the appointment of Miss Susan M. Marsters as Superintendent, and a large number of "Queen's Nurses" dating from January 1st. Sixty-three are deputed to work in England, five in Wales, fifteen in Scotland, and eleven in Ireland. This appears a large number, but we learn that it by no means meets the need for trained district nurses all over the country, a demand which is ever increasing as the good work of the Queen's Nurses becomes known and appreciated. More money is also required to carry on efficiently the work of the Jubilee Institute, and we hope it will be forthcoming. There is no doubt that money used to bring skilled trained nursing into the homes of the sick poor is spent to the very best advantage.

The War Office has completed a list of the military hospitals in which it is intended to distribute the Nursing Sisters of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service established by Royal Warrant last March. The Service at present consists of one Matron-in-Chief, seventeen Superintendents, and seventy Nursing Sisters, about fifty of the total of eighty-eight being stationed abroad.

The s.s. *Orcana*, which is due at Southampton on the 28th inst., has on board Nursing Sister J. M. Clay, who is returning from South Africa.

The efficient education of the asylum nurse is a question in which we have always taken a deep interest, and we have uniformly contended that the highest type of nurse and the best qualified men and women are required for this branch of nursing. We have further laid down the fundamental principle that, to be efficiently qualified, an asylum nurse must be educated in the principles of general nursing, and that the acceptance of a standard short of this is an injustice both to the insane and to asylum attendants.

We have, therefore, read with much pleasure in the current issue of *Asylum News* a letter from Dr. George M. Robertson, Medical Superintendent, District Asylum, Larbert, N.B., which forcibly supports the points for which we have contended, and ably answers the intolerant letter addressed by Dr. Outtersson Wood to that journal which we quoted in our issue of December 20th ult.

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