

Legal Matters.

NURSES' UNIFORM IN THE DOCK.

AT MANCHESTER.

A middle-aged woman, named Gertrude Bishop, appeared in the dock at the Manchester City Police Court last week in a grey nursing uniform, and a bonnet tied with white strings, to answer to the charge of obtaining charitable contributions by false statements.

Evidence of her arrest was given by Police-Sergeant Macdermott, who said that she had obtained pennies from two residents in Ashton Old Road district. She had been going from door to door with a small bag containing pamphlets. One of these contained the address "Sister Gertrude, South Street, Openshaw." Nothing was known of her at the address mentioned.

The prisoner said she had a licence. If asked to nurse she did so, but made no charge. Her licence turned out to be a pedlar's permit.

The pamphlets produced contained an advertisement of "Mrs. John David Bishop's British Israel, Anglo-Israel, Hebrew Sisters. Free Nurses to the Poor." The covers informed the public they were published from Pandora Villas, Portland Crescent, Portland Grove, and were sold by "Mrs. John David Bishop's Hebrew Children, Orphans of the War, 1899-1900." The prisoner said she could call witnesses whom she had nursed, and also as to her character. The clerk advised her not to go into character. It was "the worst thing she could do." She was then remanded.

AT HUDDERSFIELD.

Hannah Frances Maher O'Brien, described as a certificated nurse, and said to belong to Dublin, pleaded guilty at Huddersfield last week to fraudulently collecting alms.

The chief constable said that the prisoner had called on small shopkeepers representing that she was nursing a patient suffering from cancer who was in great need of help. Mr. William Wheatley, newsagent, of Northgate, from whom she obtained help, said that her tale would have moved "a heart of stone." On the prisoner's behalf it was urged that she had been ill and got into debt. She was bound over under the First Offenders Act.

AT FISHTOFT.

At the North Holland Police Court, Fishtoft, near Boston, recently, Mary Cullen, *alias* Cowan, an elderly woman, described as a nurse, was charged on remand with obtaining board and lodging by false pretences from Mary Ann Allen, widow, Harriet Creasey, widow, and Lucy Haynes. The prisoner was committed for trial at the Assizes.

The need of "common rules of discipline" for trained nurses, and the elimination of those "so described," is at the present time weekly evidenced by cases in the police-courts.

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.*



The Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital have lately received the gratifying announcement that, by her will, recently proved, Miss Caroline Frith, who at the time of her death was a Staff Nurse in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, has left to the hospital the whole of her residuary estate, of the estimated value of upward of £2,000, to evince her appreciation of the benefits she had received from her training there, and of the kindness and consideration shown her during her four years' residence in the hospital.

Even in this bit of amber there is the proverbial fly. We could have wished this grateful nurse had endowed the League with her fortune, so that it could have been applied for the direct educational benefit of her colleagues—say, a travelling scholarship, including a term at Teachers' College, New York, until such time as we have this higher course at home. We women want every penny we can get for educational purposes.

Miss Isla Stewart, President of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, has issued a circular letter to the members, inviting them to contribute to, and collect donations towards, the expenses of the reconstruction of the hospital. A small committee of the League has been formed, which is issuing collecting cards to all the members. We shall look forward with interest to the result of this appeal. One thing is already evident—that had there been no League there would have been no organisation in touch with the past nurses of the hospital and no facilities for communicating with them.

The question of the decoration of hospital walls is a difficult matter. All considerations must be subsidiary to those of cleanliness and of easy and frequent disinfection. For this reason, tiled walls, on which a hose can be turned, are certainly desirable. But the strict precautions necessary in the wards may reasonably give place to thorough cleanliness in the Nurses' Home, and we congratulate the nurses at Guy's Hospital on the latest gift of the donor of their Home, Mr. H. L. Raphael, to the dining-room. This is a mural painting representing "The Procession of the Hours," by Miss Chaplin,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)