

## Legal Matters.

## A GLIMPSE OF THE GUTTER.

An extraordinary story was told a few weeks ago in the hearing of the petition of Emma Eliza Creedon for divorce, petitioner alleging that her husband, who did not defend, had been guilty of adultery and cruelty. She married her husband in 1897, at St. Peter's Church, St. James's, residing at High Street, Marylebone, where her husband carried on business as a medical electrician. Counsel explained that after a time the husband left his wife, but as he had taught her his business, she carried it on for herself. From August, 1899, she had been left to earn her own living. Her husband went abroad, and when he returned she refused to see him. Hearing he was going to marry another woman, she called on the secretary of the Male Nurses' Association, who referred her to a Mr. Ross for information as to Creedon. Ross had reluctantly confessed that, during October, 1898, while he and Creedon had been living in Great Marylebone Street, when they were trying to start a male nurses' home, both of them had miscondacted themselves with women there. Ross would give evidence of this, said counsel, and another male nurse would tell the court that after a fish supper in Oxford Street, Creedon and Ross took two women home to the house, and he left them together. As to the cruelty, Creedon had knocked his wife down, had tried to cut her throat, had seized her by the throat and held her until she was black in the face. William Arundel Creedon was the full name of respondent as given by his wife, who now gets her living by nursing. In September, 1898, she had to shut herself in her room owing to her husband's attack, and his threat that he would cut her throat. She had to stay on the balcony in her nightdress until Mr. Ross came home and held her husband. John Ross, of Upper Gloucester Place, and a male nurse named Hilditch, corroborated the story of misconduct and cruelty, the latter declaring he took a photograph of the two women next morning. Hilditch also declared that Creedon was visited at Great Marylebone Street by a lady, who used to stay all day on Sundays, and for three or four hours of an evening. Mrs. Creedon was granted her decree, and the husband ordered to pay the costs of the suit.

We apologise to our readers for this glimpse of the gutter, but we feel sure they will agree with us that reports of such cases should be freely circulated for the sake of awakening the public to a sense of the terrible risks they run when employing unregistered male and female persons posing as nurses.

In the valuable evidence given by Mr. F. Rouse Walshe, Secretary of the Male Nurses' (Temperance) Co-operation, before the Select Committee on Nursing, one realised how much more he could have divulged had he not desired to be absolutely unbiased when referring to the organisation of male nurses other than those under his superintendence.

## 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.*



Some time ago the Queen showed her practical sympathy with sick and wounded soldiers by presenting Netley Hospital with fifty wicker armchairs for use in the corridors. Her Majesty has again demonstrated her kindness by a gift of felt seating accommodation for the chapel. The colour chosen is royal crimson, embroidered with the sign of the Cross and fleur-de-lys, with an elaborate border.

During her tour in South Africa, Princess Christian has received several addresses from deputations of nurses. On Monday last she laid the foundation stone of the new wing of the Johannesburg Hospital, and has received a warm welcome from British and Boers.

We warned nurses to wait awhile before rushing off to South Africa after the war; but wilful woman will have her way, and news comes constantly corroborating our fears that fabulous prosperity is not likely to result from British occupation, and that nurses find themselves very short of work at the Cape and elsewhere. The truth is that every branch of nursing in which women can make a decent living is overstocked at home and abroad, and in an increasing degree the cheap, inefficient woman is competing with the thoroughly-trained nurse. In London quite half the good work in private houses is given away, through institutions or medical men, to the semi-trained woman. Nursing Homes are now notorious for their lack of standard, numbers of them utilising cheap, uncertificated labour, instead of providing thoroughly-trained nurses at a just salary. We hope those Homes which deal justly with the sick in this particular will urge registration of certificated nurses, and also demand registration of such institutions, when the Select Committee on Nursing takes evidence in the spring.

The Local Government Board have taken a wise view of the arduous duties of a 'nurse. They have sanctioned the appointment of a night nurse for the Bear Yard Workhouse of the Strand Union, but state that they deem it desirable that nurses should be engaged as far as practicable for day and night duty alternately instead of for night duty only; and suggesting that the Guardians should consider the matter in consultation with the medical officer,

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