

It is reported that a number of small-pox cases at Dudley have been traced to the escape from an infectious diseases hospital of a small-pox patient named Jane Phillips. During the temporary absence of the attendant she procured a key and liberated herself, taking with her a quantity of beer. She slept for some nights under hay-ricks, but mixed with people during the day, and several cases of the disease have been reported. The patient has been fined 40s. or, in default, a month's imprisonment. We hope that the circumstances under which she escaped unnoticed from an institution which had undertaken to care for her while suffering from this serious and highly infectious complaint will receive attention from the authorities.

At a meeting of the weekly board of the Banbridge Guardians, after hearing the circumstances of the alleged unlawful dismissal of Nurse Fenton, Mr. Arthur Atkinson moved that the Local Government Board be requested to hold a sworn inquiry into the whole nursing arrangements of the institution, and this was unanimously agreed to.

Before Mr. Justice Kenny and a special jury at the Londonderry Assizes an action was heard in which eight nurses belonging to the Derry Workhouse Infirmary sought to recover £800 damages from a lady member of the Derry Board of Guardians, Mrs. Margaret Morris, whose husband was joined in the action as co-defendant. The action was brought by the nursing staff of the workhouse to recover damages for slanderous expressions alleged to have been used by Mrs. Morris at a meeting of the Guardians on March 12th last. The defence was a denial of the use of the words complained of, and Mr. Morris submitted that he could not be liable for any statement made by his wife in her capacity of Poor Law guardian. Mr. Drummond, for the plaintiff, said it was painful even to mention in the presence of these ladies, who were of the highest character, the words uttered against them. Mrs. Morris found fault with the nurses incessantly, and on March 12th the climax occurred. On this occasion Mrs. Morris forgot herself so far as to utter words unbecoming to any lady, and the plaintiffs determined to come into court to meet this vile slander and have it disproved. The nurses were referred to as "brazen strumpets," which was a disgusting and intolerable term to use in regard to ladies of refinement. Since the defendant had not withdrawn or apologised, the plaintiffs came into court confidently trusting the jury would vindicate their characters. A number of Guardians who were present at the meeting, and two newspaper reporters, were examined to prove that Mrs. Morris had used the words complained of. The jury found for the plaintiffs in one shilling damages in each of the two cases of slander proved.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The Queen has sent to the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, of which she is patron, a cheque for £50 towards the cost of the structural improvements to the wards of the Sussex wing now being carried out. The committee of management are appealing for £20,000 for this work and for other urgently-needed improvements.

THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—The seventy-second annual meeting of the British Medical Association was opened on Tuesday at Oxford. There were delegates present from many colonial branches. The proceedings began with a service in the Cathedral, which was attended by the Vice-Chancellor of the University, and the Mayor and Corporation in their civic robes. At the opening meeting the chair was taken by the retiring President, Dr. Griffiths, of Swansea.

A MEMORIAL OPERATING THEATRE.—A new operating theatre was opened last week in Chester Infirmary, the gift of Mrs. R. T. Tidswell, in memory of her husband, Mr. Richard T. Tidswell, barrister-at-law.

PROPOSAL TO UNITE ST. MARY'S AND SOUTHERN.—We understand that there is a possibility of the amalgamation of St. Mary's Hospital and the Manchester Southern Hospital. Negotiations towards that end are in progress, and, as both institutions work on somewhat similar lines, there is a probability of their being carried through. Quite recently the St. Mary's Hospital has been removed from Quay Street to larger premises at the corner of Whitworth Street West and Oxford Street.

A GOOD USE FOR WEALTH.—Northern charities will benefit to the extent of £92,000 under the will of Mr. George Handyside, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, who started life as a cobbler's boy, but amassed a large fortune as a boot manufacturer. He lived to the age of eighty-four.

A MARTYR TO SCIENCE.—A remarkable story was told at the inquest on Dr. Winner, a well-known physician of Milford, New Jersey, who died recently in a state of raving madness. The evidence at the inquest showed that the doctor was a martyr to science. He had long been investigating the cocain habit, which is widely prevalent in America, and trying to find an antidote. For the purpose of ascertaining the effects of cocain on the system he was accustomed to take large doses of the drug, and, while seated before a mirror under a brilliant light, calmly noted the changes in the colour of his skin, muscular action, and mental condition. Last week Dr. Winner was discovered in his apartments in a state of furious insanity, smashing the furniture and attempting to set the place on fire. He was removed to a hospital, where he lapsed into unconsciousness and died next day. An autopsy proved that he had taken enormous doses of cocain. He has left voluminous notes on his observations of the effects of the drug.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)