

### Legal Matters.

Two nurses at the Brookwood Asylum were charged last Saturday before the Woking justices with having ill-treated a patient at Brookwood Asylum.—Mr. Harold Pearse prosecuted on behalf of the Lunacy Commissioners, and Mr. Triggs Turner, of Guildford, defended.

Nurse Jefferies gave evidence as to terrible screams in the epileptic dormitory on July 11th. She saw one of the accused nurses kneeling on the patient and the other pulling her hair.—Nurse Randall said that she saw the accused nurses strike the patient with their hands for about five minutes.—Dr. Crowther, who examined the patient, said he found her head very sore, and there was a bruise on the left hip.—The defendants denied striking the patient, but admitted taking her to the padded-room, and said it was an oversight that this was not entered in the report-book.—The magistrates discharged the defendants as they thought there was some doubt in the case.

A woman who gives the name of Mrs. Christina Alexander Gordon Stewart Price, and whose maiden name is stated to be Fraser, was arrested last week at Birkenhead on charges of obtaining goods on false pretences.

The alleged facts concerning her are that her "conspicuous abilities as a nurse induced her to adopt that profession," and in the capacity of trained nurse she was called in to attend an old lady in Huntingdonshire, the grandmother of her present husband. The patient died, but the nurse induced Mrs. Price, her future mother-in-law, to keep her on in the house. She was supposed to be engaged to a bank manager or clerk in South America, and Mrs. Price consented to the marriage taking place from her house.

The next act in the drama was that Mrs. Price's son of 20, an apprentice engineer at Vickers, Son, and Maxim, in Sheffield, came home to spend his Christmas holidays, and Miss Fraser nursed him in an attack of influenza. The outcome was a secret engagement, which was eventually discovered. Mr. Price returned home hurriedly, and he and Miss Fraser were married by special licence.

On Thursday in last week Mrs. Price, who gave a Birkenhead address, was charged at Nottingham with obtaining goods by false pretences. She is stated to have described herself as a nurse about to open a nursing home in the city, and gave as references the names of various professional men and tradesmen. On the strength of this she obtained silver and other goods, but eventually disappeared from the city at six o'clock in the morning. A warrant was issued and she was traced by the police to Birkenhead. When she was brought before the magistrates and remanded the police strongly resisted her application for bail. Chief-Superintendent Clarke said he had every reason to believe she was a very bad lot, and had been convicted elsewhere. The accused claims that she has a complete answer to the charges against her, which are said to number eight.

### Practical Points.

#### Disinfection in Infectious Cases.

When nursing an infectious case it is most important that all infected linen should be thoroughly disinfected before it is sent to the laundry. To achieve this it should be soaked for not less than 24 hours in a solution of an efficient disinfectant, carbolic 1 in 20, or izal, sanitas, cyllin, or lysol of an equivalent strength may be used, and will suffice in most instances. In small-pox it is safer for all linen and clothing to be sterilised by steam, or, if this is impossible, they should be boiled for at least half an hour. The sterilisation of infected articles may be placed in the hands of the local sanitary authority, which usually possesses a steam disinfector, and undertakes this duty. Sterilisation by steam (moist heat) is much more effective than that by dry air at a much higher temperature.

The excreta and discharges from an infectious patient must be carefully disinfected. The urine, sputum, and throat secretions may contain the specific micro-organisms of the different fevers. Dr. F. W. Andrewes in his *Lessons in Disinfection and Sterilisation*, says that the stools of infectious cases are most difficult to disinfect. They should be mixed with more than an equal bulk of 1 in 20 carbolic, 1 in 50 izal, or 1 in 50 chloride of lime, and should be well broken upon with a stick or iron rod (which must be subsequently burned or heated in the fire), so that no lumps remain. Perchloride of mercury is not to be recommended. The stools must remain in contact with the disinfectant for two or three hours before being poured away. The urine may be mixed with an equal volume of one of the solutions just named for an hour or so before it is poured away. *Sputum*, when copious, may be similarly treated, but when scanty is best put in the fire. The most reliable disinfectant for sputum is a solution of fresh chloride of lime 1 in 50, or 1 in 100. The secretions from the nose and throat should be received on rags and burnt at once. The cheap Japanese pocket-handkerchiefs made of thin tough paper are very serviceable for this purpose. It is sufficient to place the cups, plates, spoons, and other vessels and utensils used by the patient in a solution of carbolic acid (1 in 20), or izal (1 in 100) for an hour or so before they are washed up. Or they may be scalded with boiling water.

#### The Destruction of Mosquitoes

Dr. Santori, says a contemporary, appeals to physicians throughout Italy to take the lead in educating the public in regard to the dangers from flies, as well as from mosquitoes, and to lead also in enforcing practical measures against them. Some of the French watering places have decreed and carried out the destruction of mosquitoes as a purely business measure, to relieve the visitors of the former plagues of mosquitoes. At Bourbonne the pools of stagnant water were covered

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