

Legal Matters.

THE INQUEST ON THE DEAD CHILD.

On Friday, January 22nd, Dr. Danford Thomas resumed his inquiry at the St. Pancras Court on the dead body of the child found in the box of Nurse Cross at 6, Bisham Gardens, High Street, Highgate. The jury at first handed in a written statement that "death was caused by a wound in the child's left side." The Foreman added the jury were anxious to say no more than this.

The Coroner remarked that he supposed they meant to say that there was insufficient evidence to show how the wounds had been inflicted, and the Foreman replied that they could not say that, but they could not give a verdict of wilful murder.

Eventually the jury returned a verdict that "death was due to a punctured wound in the left side."

The Coroner, as reported in the *Islington Daily Gazette*, remarked: "And you won't say who did it. May the next murderer have an equally easy escape, that is all I can say. It is an open verdict. It cannot be regarded in any other way; it is very open."

A CHARGE OF MURDER.

At the North London Police Court on Thursday, January 28th, Violet Edith Cross was charged on remand with the murder of her newly-born illegitimate male child on December 30th, at 11, High Street, Highgate.

Mr. Dey appeared for the Public Prosecutor, and the prisoner was represented by counsel, Mr. B. Bircham.

On Thursday the proceedings consisted of the cross-examination of Dr. Alexander M. Henderson, who, assisted by Dr. Fletcher, J.P., the divisional police surgeon, made the post-mortem examination on the deceased infant.

The cross-examination centred chiefly on the doctor's statement at the last hearing as to the wound inflicted on the child. He admitted that it was possible for a mother to be half fainting and semi-conscious at the birth of her child, and that a severe wound might be inflicted if she had scissors in her hand and fell forward in a collapsed state. Such a wound would be more likely to be gaping than if deliberately delivered. In the present instance he did not think the whole of the wound could have been delivered accidentally. In regard to the separate existence of the child, Dr. Henderson said that his guide as to this was the amount of air he found in the lung. The inflation of the lung was caused by the child breathing. It might breathe a little before being completely born.

The prisoner said she had nothing to say, and was committed for trial at the Central Criminal Court.

CHARGE OF SUPPLYING MEDICINES WITH CRIMINAL INTENT.

At the County Assizes, held at Leicester, before Mr. Justice Darling, Elizabeth Cart, patent medicine dealer, was indicted on January 27th for supplying to Rosanna James, of Coalville, certain patent medicines, with criminal intent, between

the months of September and December, 1908. Mr. Disney prosecuted, and Mr. Powers defended. It was stated for the prosecution that the prisoner, under the name of Nurse Glynn, kept a stall in the Coalville Market, and always donned a nurse's uniform before going to the market. In the present instance the person to whom the medicines were sold was acting on behalf of Inspector Robertson, of Coalville.—Dr. Dyer, the County Analyst, and Dr. Blakesley, spoke of the effect of the pills and medicines upon an ordinary person.

Mr. Powers called his client, who said that she had a licence for selling patent medicines, and went about to several markets. She had been trained in nursing by her mother, and had been out nursing.—The Judge pointed out that her licence was only for the sale of medicines bearing the regulation stamp. The witness said that she never sold a bottle or box without a label upon it. Some of the pills were made up from a prescription supplied by Messrs. Potter and Clarke, wholesale chemists, London, and obtained from Berridge's, chemists, Leicester.—Mr. Herbert Clarke, manager for Messrs. Berridge, deposed to having supplied "Nurse" Glynn with pills from a printed prescription prepared from Potter and Clarke's list. They did not make the pills, which were produced for them either by Messrs. T. H. Lloyd or E. H. Butler, of Leicester.

The Judge at this stage stopped the case, and said that it was one in which there would have to be a fuller investigation. He should discharge the jury and the case would come up again at the next Assizes, and in the meantime Dr. Wilcox, analyst at the Home Office, could make an independent analysis, and be called for the prosecution. The prisoner would be allowed the same bail as before.

A CHARGE OF CRUELTY.

Maud Mary Wills, a nurse, of Moreton Park, was brought up on remand at the Ongar Police Court, on January 21st, on a charge of neglecting six children in a manner likely to cause them unnecessary suffering. She pleaded "Not guilty." She was sent for trial, bail being allowed. Mr. Sidney Lamb, who represented Miss Wills, said that she reserved her defence, but instructed him to say that she had a complete answer to the charge.

DESCRIBED AS A NURSE.

Before the Recorder (Sir Forrest Fulton), at the Central Criminal Court on Feb. 2nd, Jane Emily Inglis, aged 50, described as a nurse, who at the previous sessions was convicted of procuring by a fraudulent certificate admission to the Midwives' Roll, was brought up for judgment. The Recorder observed that the woman had been in custody for some time, and in the circumstances he passed a nominal sentence of twenty-one days' imprisonment which would involve her discharge.

Mrs. Inglis, having been struck off the Midwives' Roll, may not, under penalties, use the title of midwife, but can describe herself as a nurse with impunity. We hope that in the near future well qualified and trustworthy trained nurses will be protected from association with criminal midwives by the title of "registered nurse."

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