

as he could to a woman in her unfortunate position, but did not think, after what had been said, that he could deal with the case.

The accused asked to be dealt with. She did not wish to be remanded again, she had had enough. She was committed for trial, bail not being asked for.

"DESCRIBED AS A NURSE."

We desire once more to direct the attention of nurses and of the public to the case of Jane Emily Inglis, of Bradford, "described as a nurse," who pleaded guilty at the Central Criminal Court on January 14th, before the Recorder, Sir Forrest Fulton, K.C., to procuring a certificate of admission to the Midwives' Roll by a false and fraudulent certificate in writing.

It will be remembered that Mrs. Inglis was struck off the Midwives' Roll in July, 1908, for offences under the Midwives' Act, and at the same time it was decided to report the circumstances under which a medical practitioner in Bradford had given her the certificate of good moral character which had secured her admission to the Roll, to the General Medical Council. On a letter received from the Registrar of the General Medical Council as to whether the Central Midwives' Board contemplated taking proceedings against the practitioner in question, the Board decided to seek the advice of the Privy Council as to whether it should prosecute in a case of this sort, and was subsequently informed by the Clerk of the Council, on behalf of the Privy Council, that it "appears to be a case in which it is the duty of the Central Midwives' Board to bring the facts under the notice of the Public Prosecutor."

The result was that a prosecution was instituted against Mrs. Inglis for unlawfully and fraudulently obtaining admission to the Midwives' Roll, the name of Dr. March, who had given a certificate that, to his personal knowledge, Mrs. Inglis had been in *bond-fide* practice as a midwife since 1889, whereas he had lost sight of her for long periods since that date, being joined with that of Mrs. Inglis in the prosecution.

At the Westminster Police Court in December last, the magistrate held that the proceedings against the medical practitioner were amply justified; he had unquestionably acted carelessly, but after his explanation, the case against Dr. March was dismissed, and Mrs. Inglis committed for trial at the Old Bailey.

Her history during the period covered by the certificate of good character, was detailed by Mr. Bodkin, who prosecuted, at the Central Criminal Court, on Thursday, January 14th.

In 1892 she was acting as a midwife to a person who died from peritonitis, and in connection with this case was subsequently tried for murder at the Leeds Assizes, convicted of manslaughter, and sentenced by Mr. Justice Grantham to imprisonment for life, a sentence afterwards reduced to one of three years' penal servitude.

In September, 1898, she was again acting as a midwife in Bradford, and again tried for the murder of a woman whom she had attended. On

that occasion she was acquitted. She afterwards left Bradford for a time, but returned.

Mr. Curtis Bennett submitted, in mitigation, that Mrs. Inglis need not have procured a certificate of having practised as a midwife for more than a year, and if she had intended to act in a fraudulent manner she need not have referred to more than that period.

The Recorder said that the prosecution was a very proper one to have instituted. He postponed sentence till next session, the defendant remaining in custody.

The point of special interest about this case is that, having been struck off the Midwives' Roll, Mrs. Inglis cannot, under the Midwives' Act, "take or use the name or title of midwife," without being liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding five pounds. But she can, and does, describe herself as a nurse, though no tittle of evidence has been offered to prove that she has ever received any training as one. By referring to the Midwives' Roll, the public can ascertain that she is not recognised by the statutory authority, and consequently employ her, if they choose to do so, at their own risk.

But there is no Nursing Register to which reference can be made in regard to her claim to be a nurse, and when she is released from custody there is every probability, unless a Nurses' Registration Act is passed before that date, that she will make use of the title. How long do trained nurses intend to permit such conditions to continue?

AN UNFORTUNATE POSITION.

George Warner, an old man of 81, pleaded guilty recently to the manslaughter of a patient in the Hospital of St. John, Scorton, on December 15th, under peculiar circumstances. The prisoner and the deceased patient (Patrick O'Brien) slept in the same ward, and as the latter, being restless and noisy, kept Warner awake, he got up to get O'Brien back to bed. In endeavouring to do this he scratched the deceased man on the nose, and owing to the latter's state of health, erysipelas set in, and he died in four days. Counsel said that Warner had a good character, and suggested that it would be undesirable to do more than send him back to the hospital, the Prior having agreed to look after him. The Judge said the case was one of manslaughter not far removed from accident, and sympathised with the prisoner's unfortunate position. He was bound over in his own recognisances of £10.

We agree with the Judge that the case was not far removed from accident. A question which may pertinently be asked is, where was the nurse in charge of the ward that a patient aged 81 had to get out of bed to look after another? We hope the Prior of the Hospital of St. John will secure the services of a nurse, if the institution is without one.

It is with reluctance that we devote so much space to recording these cases of a legal nature, but nothing could demonstrate more conclusively the need for the organisation of nursing under State authority.

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