

between the lavatory door and the fire-place, and if the door was opened there would be a draught. Miss Mabel Robinson, a probationary nurse, said that the lamp was about a foot and a-half away from the child's cot; after she came on duty she opened the lavatory door, which caused a draught, and while attending to another patient noticed that the cot occupied by the child Woodhall was on fire. She took up the child and gave the alarm, and another nurse put out the flames. Miss Mary Stevenson, who extinguished the flames, also gave evidence, and the house surgeon, Dr. Lacey, said that the child died from bronchitis, accelerated by shock due to the burns. He could not account for the cot getting on fire. The Coroner said that the draught from the lavatory door was a possible explanation.

The jury found that the child's death had been accelerated by shock due to the burns, but left it an open matter as to how the fire was caused.

Two points will strike most nurses in this report—namely (1) the unsafe position of the cot, both for a child suffering from bronchitis and because of the possibility of the screen cover being blown towards the lamp when the lavatory door was opened, and (2) the fact that apparently a probationer and not a staff nurse was in charge of the case. Spirit lamps are always a source of anxiety, and at the present day, when most hospital wards are provided with electricity, it might usefully be the rule that all steam kettles should be heated by this method.

ACTION AGAINST A HOSPITAL.

In the Court of Session, Greenock, Mrs. J. M. Brown, wife of Mr. E. Rosedon Foote, 53, Aigburth Mansions, Hackford Road, Brixton, S.W., recently raised an action against Sir Hugh Shaw Stewart, Bart., President of the Greenock Hospital and Infirmary, and the office-bearers and directors of the Institution, in which she claimed £1,000 damages. Mrs. Brown alleged that she has lived apart from her husband for many years, and earned her living by acting, teaching dancing, and acting as a subject for cinematograph pictures; that on February 19th ult., while at Greenock, she fell and fractured her thigh, and on the advice of her medical attendant was treated at the Gregory Infirmary. She alleges that she was wrongly treated for sprain of the knee joint and synovitis, and discharged on March 21st, and that the authorities culpably and negligently failed to discover that her thigh was fractured, with the result that the injured leg is markedly shorter than the other, and that she will not be able to earn money by her former occupations. She has had to give up contracts in which she was engaged as an actress, and is also unable to teach dancing or to appear as a subject for pictures.

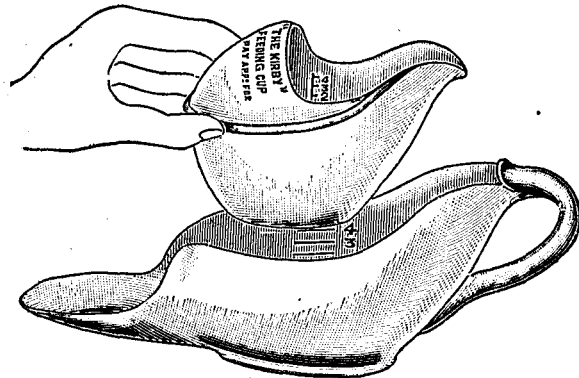
The defenders assert that Mrs. Brown, who occupied a private ward, left against the doctor's advice; they deny that she was unskilfully treated; and in any event maintain that the damages claimed are excessive.

Lord Skerrington ordered issues for the trial of the case.

Practical Points.

"The Kirby" Feeding Cup. We have much pleasure in drawing the attention of our readers to a feeding cup recently brought out by

Messrs. H. and T. Kirby and Co., Ltd., 14, Newman Street, W., which is designed on scientific principles for the administration of food or medicine to the sick. The feeding cup was shown by this firm at the London Medical Exhibition, and nurses who saw it must have been struck by its practical usefulness, and its superiority to the old-fashioned feeder, the spout of which is almost impossible to keep clean. The Kirby Feeding Cup consists of two separate portions (1) the cup, and (2) the container. The food to be administered is



placed in the graduated cup. The whole device is then tilted backwards, thus allowing a measured quantity to escape into the container, which is then easily administered in the ordinary way from the spoon-like end of the container. Some of the advantages of this appliance are that only a pre-determined quantity can be taken by the patient at a time; the food can be measured and administered while the nurse is supporting the patient; rejected portions cannot re-enter the cup and thus contaminate the remainder; the graduated cup by itself can be used for the administration of medicine without fear of any being spilt by an unexpected movement on the part of the patient. The price of the cup is 3s., or 3s. 6d. post free.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S IMPERIAL MILITARY NURSING SERVICE.

Miss Elizabeth A. Dowse, R.R.C., Matron, is placed on retired pay. Dated October 20th, 1910.

The undermentioned Staff Nurses are confirmed in their appointments, their periods of provisional service having expired: Miss Mary T. Casswell, Miss Mabel L. Cutfield, Miss Eveline J. French, Miss Evelyn S. Killery, Miss Elizabeth Lowe, Miss Marion McCormick, Miss Mary McNaughtan, Miss Joan D. C. McPherson, Miss Evelyn L. Murray, Miss Jane Todd, Miss Frances L. Trotter, and Miss Dorothy Turner.

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