

## LITERATURE FOR RESCUE WORKERS.

Amongst the literature on sale at the Caxton Hall on November 24th, during the Conference on "Hygiene in Relation to Rescue Work," convened by the National Union of Women Workers, will be Miss L. L. Dock's "Hygiene and Morality," published by Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons; the Hon. Albinia Brodrick's pamphlet, "Morality in Relation to Health," published by the Nursing Press, Ltd., and Miss E. L. C. Eden's pamphlet, "Suggestions for Nurses on Some Special Points in Connection With Moral and Physical Health."

## Legal Matters.

## A NURSE EXONERATED.

Mr. Luxmoore Drew presided at the Fulham Coroner's Court last week in connection with an inquest held because a doctor refused to give a death certificate.

Dr. Armstrong, who was called in to attend the deceased, was, the widow stated, annoyed that the nurse in attendance did not wash the patient, whom he alleged to be in a dirty condition, and refused to examine him. He treated him for a cold, and stated that he had been neglected.

Nurse Hyndman said the man was not dirty, and considerably cleaner than many patients whom she had to attend, and Dr. Parsons, who made a post mortem examination, said that death was due to Bright's disease, and was not accelerated by neglect.

The jury, in their verdict, exonerated the nurse and widow from all blame, and expressed the opinion that Dr. Armstrong should have given the man more attention.

## UNTRAINED NURSE IN ATTENDANCE.

An inquest was held at Battersea last week on Thomas Alfred Flinn, a young man who died in the dentist's chair at the South-Western Dental Dispensary, St. John's Road, Battersea, while under an anæsthetic for the removal of a few stumps by Mr. W. F. Peach (a registered dentist). The Coroner was Mr. Troutbeck.

Dr. Freyberger attributed death to sudden heart failure, due to fatty degeneration, while the patient was under the influence of an anæsthetic, and while he was suffering from acute pleurisy and chronic tuberculosis of the lungs.

The Coroner said the case was a grave one; the nurse present at the operation was untrained, and from her experience at the dispensary it was impossible to imagine she knew anything about the administration of an anæsthetic.

The jury returned a verdict of death from misadventure, and severely censured the dentist for not taking more precautions, and expressed the opinion that a properly trained nurse should have been employed.

The charge of a patient under an anæsthetic is a serious responsibility which only a trained nurse is competent to undertake. The present lack of any definite standard of education for the trained nurse opens a wide door for the assumption of most responsible duties by ignorant and untrained persons.

## Our Foreign Letter.

## POLITICS AND MORALITY IN NEW YORK.



DEAR EDITOR,  
I don't know whether in England you have watchers on election days, but in this glorious country we have brought cheating to

such a fine art that each party appoints watchers to spy out attempts at fraud of the other parties. Formerly women could not be watchers, but now our right to act thus has been affirmed, and we shall have a most interesting day on the 8th, when about 50 of us are going to watch at the polls. We shall be placed in the toughest and most uncivilised sections, partly to prove the absurdity of the claim that women could not go to the polls without being insulted. That is, of course, ridiculous. No one was insulted the day we watched at the primaries, though every imaginable device was tried to get us away by the district bosses, and, of course, we were told pretty plainly that we had no business there and ought to be at home washing the dishes. (I wonder why washing dishes is regarded as the most ignominious labour in the world? It is evidently the worst thing men can think of to say when they want to be crushing.) I was much amused that day at our Tammany boss—the dirtiest, greasy, common, tough and thug-like male creature you ever did see. After he found we were there to stay he rolled his eyes heavenward with a pained expression and sighed (for my benefit evidently, as the other women were young), "Oh! what would I think if I ever saw my mother behaving like this?"

The ballot is still far off from us in New York, but we hope for a victory for at least two of the four Western States that are bringing it to the vote of the men this November.

## BARBAROUS PROSTITUTION LAW.

As for our horrible regulation of prostitution, the way it is being worked out is more barbarous and vindictive even than any Continental methods—the publicity with which sentences are given, the cruelty of telling young girls what their disease is *before* everyone, is something I would never have believed possible. Let me tell you how it is done.

The girls arrested and brought in on one night are (if convicted of being prostitutes) examined by the doctor (a woman, and a nice nurse is on hand, who, I am glad to say, has courage enough to say that the whole thing is a monstrosity) and are then detained for 24 hours, or until the Health Board has developed the cultures and made microscopic tests. They are then brought down again into the Night Court, and the magistrate, addressing them by name, says (as example): "Mary Jones, you have a contagious and communicable disease called gonorrhœa, I therefore sentence you to a minimum of three, and a maximum of four, months in the hospital." Remember all this is made mandatory by the law.

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