

tion moan and articulation of words nobody seemed to understand. His temperature was bumping the top of the tube. His death was a matter of a few hours. Beside the tub containing this brawny labourer stood what the novelists call 'a slip of a girl.' She was eighteen years old. Her brown, wavy hair, her large blue eyes, set far apart and tender but full of the spirit of conflict, and the softness of her skin, and the pink that came and went in her cheeks when she performed some unpleasant task, presented a striking contrast with her uncouth patient. She was working over him as if he were her sick baby. She was genuinely mothering a hulking, strange, sick man. When this young nurse paused for a moment in her exertions, the inspector, who had been looking on, said:

"'You seem to be taking pretty good care of that poor fellow.'

"'He needs it,' she replied.

"'Who is he?' the inspector asked.

"'I don't know,' she replied, 'but I do know that he has had a hard time and that he is very sick. The police brought him in.'

"'Do you think you are able to cure him?' the inspector ventured.

"'Yes, I do!' she cried. 'He *must* get well!'

"'He died in the early hours of the next morning. The nurse's battle was a losing one. When the inspector was at the hospital again, he asked her how it was she was so sure that patient would recover. She smiled and said:

"'I never give a patient up unless he is dead. I am a nurse.'

"'So she was. That young girl exemplified what I mean by the nursing spirit.

"'Now there are nurses and nurses. Some are natural nurses, who possess only the nursing spirit. Some are scientific nurses, machine nurses, you might say, who secretly believe and sometimes openly affirm that they are just as competent as, or even more competent than, doctors. Some are nurses 'for the fun of it.' Some are nurses because they are pretty. Some are nurses because they are rich and don't know what else to do with their time. Some are nurses who work in sole anticipation of the 'day off.' Some are nurses only for pay. Some are nurses who, like the bibulous and cucumber-loving Mrs. 'Sairey' Gamp, think of their comfort and not of the patient's welfare, and, also, 'stand in' with an undertaker who is 'right.' Some are nurses whose business I do not care to discuss before you. None of these nurses is fit for service . . . in these days of progressive and high-grade care of the ill. The ideal nurse, I think, is one who has the nursing spirit, who is neat, good, and wholesome, and who has acquired and can apply scientific knowledge of the art of nursing under the direction of a competent physician or surgeon."

The Metropolitan Asylums Board, on the report of the Hospitals Committee, decided at their last meeting to make the necessary arrangements for receiving measles into their infectious hospitals as soon as the Local Government Board's Order shall have been received.

Licensing of Nursing Agencies.

The Public Control Committee of the London County Council, as empowered under the new Act, held a special meeting, for the purpose of licensing employment agencies, at the County Hall, Spring Gardens, S.W., on Friday, December 16th. As these meetings are open to the public, a representative of this Journal attended to see what sort of businesses and persons professional nurses' co-operative societies would be classed with now they are compelled to take out a licence.

A large number of the applicants were theatrical, variety and dramatic, and music hall agents. Others maintained agencies for domestic servants, hotel and restaurant staffs, companions and secretaries, and a few were from institutions supplying nurses, midwives, and masseuses.

To report the proceedings:—

1. An applicant for a licence as a musical, dramatic and variety agent was represented by counsel, who said his client was prejudiced by the fact that he was tried for rape in 1900. He was, however, acquitted without the jury leaving the box. In reply to a charge at the Old Bailey of being of immoral character and frequenting houses of that nature, his client had a complete answer. In regard to a woman with whom his name was associated, he had married her in Warsaw and lived with her for a few months, but declined to do so when he discovered her character. Counsel emphasised that, on oath before Mr. Justice Bigham, his client was acquitted of the charges against him. The applicant was cross-questioned by a detective as to whether during 1906 there were four convictions against his wife for soliciting and prostitution, and counsel protested against this irrelevant question.

The detective further stated that he was summoned to a certain house because A— B— (the woman above referred to) stated that she had been robbed by a man whom she had taken home. He had to wait in the passage before he could go to her room, and while there applicant went out of the house. This was absolutely denied.

Another offence unjustly alleged against his client was, said counsel, of getting a girl into trouble. Her relatives recently had visited his flat and demanded £10, and were alleged to have said that if they did not receive it there would be trouble about his licence. He refused to accede to the demand.

The young woman concerned appeared before the Committee, and went into details.

The application was refused.

2. In the case of another variety agency, also represented by counsel, and to the application of which objection was taken by the Council's inspector, one of the directors, who appeared, admitted having been warned off Newmarket Heath. The reason was that he was robbed and could not meet his betting liabilities. The incident had nothing to do with the variety agency. This application also was refused, and in this and the above instance counsel asked for particulars in writing of the grounds of refusal, to which they were entitled under the Act. These were promised.

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