

Legal Matters.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Under the heading "Workhouse Nurse's Fatal Error," an inquest touching the death of an infant at the Horncastle Workhouse, was reported in the press. The Nursery Attendant, who bathed the child, placed him in such hot water that the child was severely scalded, the left leg being raw, and the right leg blistered. The attendant said that she felt the water before immersing the baby, and did not think it was too hot.

The Coroner, Mr. H. Sharpley, advised the jury that they might return a verdict that the child died from exhaustion arising from the scalds, and that "although it was not a wise act on the nurse's part in placing the child in so hot water, yet she did it inadvertently, and therefore it was a case of accident." The jury returned a verdict accordingly.

It is important to note that the "nurse" was a nursery attendant, not a trained nurse, and also that if children are not to be scalded to death as the result of unwise acts on the part of their unqualified attendants, someone should be held responsible for the temperature of their baths.

COULD NOT FACE THE SIGHT.

At an inquest by Mr. John Evans, Coroner, into the death of a lady whose body was found hanging in the bathroom of Brynymor Old Mansion, Aberystwyth, Nurse Margaret Hughes, of the Mental Nurses' Co-operation, 49, Norfolk Square, London, deposed that the deceased went to the bathroom. She followed immediately but found the door locked. She waited for two minutes and then heard a gurgling sound. As she failed to force the door a man broke the bathroom window and obtained access, when the patient was found hanged and inanimate. The nurse sent for a doctor and policeman, but no one entered the room till the constable arrived. She informed the Coroner, who could not understand why the nurse did not go in once the room had been opened, that she was "upset," and that she "could not face the sight."

The Coroner said he did not wish to press the matter, but it was rather serious if experienced nurses lost their nerve just when they were really wanted.

The jury returned a verdict of suicide while of unsound mind.

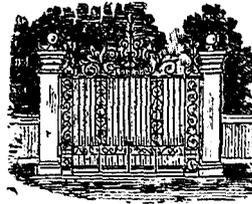
It is an extraordinary fact that persons who would not leave a patient in water to drown until the police arrive will leave them hanging if they attempt suicide. It cannot be too strongly insisted that death by strangulation is by no means always instantaneous, and that efforts at resuscitation should be persevered in until medical help arrives.

AWARDS AT THE JAPAN-BRITISH EXHIBITION.

Jeyes' Fluid has been awarded the Grand Prix—the highest possible award, at the Japan-British Exhibition. This is the 133rd gold medal or other award which this famous disinfectant has secured on such public occasions.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



The Great Procession of Women to Hyde Park on Saturday next, July 23rd, is to be formed in two sections, as it is expected it will considerably exceed the one of June 18th in size, and no larger procession can be allowed in the public interest. A contingent of mounted police will head each procession. The nurses' contingent will join the East Procession, Group C. 1, on the Embankment east of Waterloo Bridge. It is hoped that, as before, all who can will wear indoor uniform. They are asked to form up at 3 p.m., five abreast. A start will be made at 4 p.m., and the procession will pass by way of Northumberland Avenue, Pall Mall, St. James's Street, and Piccadilly, to Hyde Park Corner, where it will enter the Park. The organiser of the Nurses' Group is Miss Buckley, 4, Clement's Inn, W.C.

The West Procession, which will be headed by the General, Mrs. Drummond (mounted), will form up on the south side of Holland Park and stretch from Notting Hill Gate Station to Shepherd's Bush Tube Station, and will march straight along the Bayswater Road to the Marble Arch, where it will enter the park. In the Park, commencing at 5.30, speeches will be made from 40 platforms, and simultaneously from all the platforms the Resolution will be put at 6.30.

In our last issue the majority in favour of the Second Reading of Women's Suffrage Bill was, by a printer's error, given as 145. The majority for the Second Reading was 109, and that in favour of committing the Bill to a Committee of the whole House 145.

The Women's Local Government Society have issued a leaflet, which has been newly revised, and which supplies information as to the registration of electors of local government bodies. The society points out that besides the importance of the women's vote in local elections there is the fact that only electors can be candidates for County and Town Councils.

Speaking in the discussion on "Women and the Fight Against Destitution" at the Japan-British Exhibition Congress, Mrs. Sidney Webb said the fight against destitution was one of the big objects before women in the next 50 years. The hopeful note which had resulted from the inquiry of the Royal Commission was the realisation that destitution sprung from certain causes, and that we had gradually built up other agencies to prevent persons becoming destitute. It was desirable in the interests of the prevention of destitution that all sickness should be dealt with by the public health authority, that child neglect should be prevented by the education authority, and that the feeble-minded should be dealt with by the asylums authority.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)