

he died from disease of the heart, directly attributable, it was contended, to what he was allowed to do while in hospital.

Mr. Hutchings alleged general neglect of patients, that children sent in clean have come out verminous; a little girl of three, suffering from scarlet fever, had no night nurse to "comfort" her, and had to be comforted by another patient. The plaintiff's little daughter, aged 13, who was in the hospital at the same time as her brother, was put to wash and scrub the ward every morning. May Gregory corroborated these statements, and said that the child above referred to got up and woke another patient because she wanted her mother. There was no nurse on duty. Witness swept and dusted the ward every morning and washed the little ones—two little girls and three little boys. She saw her brother mowing grass, and syringing the hospital windows.

Dr. A. Midgley Cash, who attended the deceased boy, said that the heart disease from which he eventually died might follow undue exertion taken too soon, or a chill. After scarlet fever proper precautions should be taken to prevent exposure to wet, or undue temperature. It looked as if the complications in the boy were the inevitable result of lawn mowing and window cleaning.

For the defence it was claimed that the general supervision of the establishment was in the hands of Dr. Dunlop, the Medical Officer of Health, and under him were Mrs. Arnold, the Matron (wife of the porter), and Miss Arnold, Sister to the Matron's husband. Mrs. Arnold had been there 18 years, and Miss Arnold 17, and considering their long experience it could hardly be said they were untrained. When the lad Gregory was there there were five trained nurses there. It was also claimed that the boy went on the grass in defiance of instructions. Mr. Almy denied negligence on the part of the servants of the Corporation, or if there had been negligence that the damage was the result of the negligence. It was Arnold's duty to cut the grass and clean the windows, and if he delegated these duties to a patient he was doing something for which his employers, the Corporation, were not liable. The jury were of opinion that there had been negligence on the part of the authorities, and found for the plaintiff on all the questions left to their consideration, and his Honour gave a verdict for £50 and costs.

In all institutions where there are sick

people the Matron and Charge Nurses on day and on night duty should be fully trained. When a Nurses' Registration Act is in force this will undoubtedly be as much a matter of course as that the medical officer should be qualified. In the meantime it is the duty both of the public bodies responsible for the health, and may be the lives, of the patients, and of the medical officer in charge, to ensure that the patients have skilled and trained nursing attendance.

The West Riding Nurses' Home, the object of which is to maintain a higher standard of nursing, especially in midwifery, was opened on Tuesday, at Leeds, under the auspices of the West Riding Nursing Association. It was stated at the opening ceremony that the West Riding was worse off as regards trained nurses than any other country. Dr. Jane Walker, sister to the Mayor and Mayoress of Dewsbury, encouraged the new undertaking with an inspiring address.

When the plague epidemic first appeared in India in 1907 many nurses were earnestly desirous of volunteering their services, and many of those sent out by the India Office did excellent work for the plague-stricken patients, lives being undoubtedly saved through their skilled nursing. The gravity of the epidemic at the present time scarcely seems to be sufficiently appreciated. While the mortality in North China has been 40,000 in six months during the month of March alone 131,000 deaths from bubonic plague were reported in India, 60 per cent. of these occurring in the United Provinces. Dr. J. W. Simpson, Professor of Hygiene at King's College, London, who has a wide acquaintance with plague is amongst those urging the need of drastic restrictive measures, and surely amongst the measures adopted there should be an organised nursing service to bring healing and comfort to such cases as may be cured, and mitigation of suffering to the dying.

In connection with the work of the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institution for the past year Lieut.-Colonel Pilgrim, F.R.C.S., Superintendent of the Presidency Hospital, reports:

"I have the honour to state that the work of the nurses in the wards was satisfactory, and in one important respect highly commendable. I refer to the exceptionally low mortality of the cases of enteric fever treated in this hospital during the past year, as the death rate from this disease in any hospital is an important indication of the degree of the efficiency of the nursing arrangements."

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