

### Legal Matters.

#### THEFTS FROM A NURSES' HOME.

At the Guildhall last week Bertha Mabel Briggs Livock was charged before Alderman Sir Marcus Samuel with stealing a gold watch and other articles from St. Bartholomew's Hospital, the property of nurses in that institution. Mr. Wilde, who conducted the prosecution, said that the charges were preferred with the object of getting the articles which had been sold or pawned returned to the owners.

The prisoner, who, when last before the Court, had described herself as the Hon. Grosvenor Bertha Livock, owned to having stolen all the articles mentioned.

Mr. Wilde stated that she first appeared at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in May, 1909, and at the end of three months was appointed a probationary nurse. She left in December of the same year on account of ill health, but continued to visit the hospital, where she had made many friends. The thefts had been going on for about two years.

Mr. Edwin Clark, defending the prisoner, said that she was highly connected, and since her childhood had given anxiety as to her mental capacity. She suffered greatly from headache.

Sir Marcus Samuel said that he could not accept the plea that the thefts were due to headaches. They were far too flagrant, and no doubt many innocent persons had been brought under suspicion as a result. He was totally unable to see why he should accord different treatment to a person who was highly connected from that meted out to one who was poor and friendless. He sentenced the prisoner to a month's imprisonment in the second division.

#### AN INGENIOUS THIEF

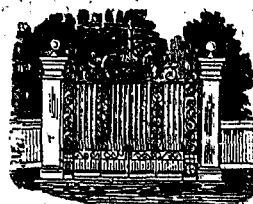
At Bournemouth Quarter Sessions, Louisa Sloane, described as a nurse, was charged with having stolen jewelry and obtained goods by false pretences.

The police, giving evidence as to the prisoner's previous history, stated that after her last conviction at Liverpool last year, she was employed in a sanatorium at Brighton from November to January. She then came to Bournemouth, where she was employed at a hospital for about three weeks, being then discharged on account of her drinking habits. She then took lodgings in the house where the theft of the jewels was committed. In 1909 she was bound over at Marylebone Police Court to come up for judgment if called upon, and on being liberated was placed in an inebriates' home in Torquay. Her manner of committing thefts was ingenious. She went to doctors' residences at an hour when she knew they were visiting patients, asked to go into the consulting room to write a note, stole something, and immediately pawned it. Her downfall was due to drink.

The prisoner was sentenced to six months' hard labour. Once more we direct attention to the ease with which criminals can obtain employment as nurses between their terms of incarceration; and to the consequent responsibility incurred by those who oppose the movement for nursing organisation.

### Outside the Gates.

#### WOMEN.



Mrs. Alec Tweedie has had some logical letters in the *Times* of late, in one of which she entreats that "there should be no question of 'women's work.'" She wisely adds: "Work is work, and all work should

be open to men and women alike. When one advocates 'women's work' one merely does so while so many channels are still barred as professions, trades, and occupations for women because they commit the awful crime of being female. Medical women, theatrical women, literary women, are none the less women because they earn an honest living. . . . Please let me thank you as one of a large army of women workers for having opened your valuable columns to our demands, and I trust that before long work will be work, and reward will be reward, untrammelled by reference to sex."

It certainly makes the leading newspaper vastly more interesting to find discussion on women's wants included in its columns. We notice with great satisfaction that more space has recently been used for a variety of questions which are *de facto* of general importance, although referring apparently to women. Take, for instance, "Careers for Educated Women," and the "Florence Nightingale Memorial," the latter touching nursing economics, and nursing education, both of national importance.

The Colonial Intelligence League, which deals with careers for educated women in the more distant parts of the Empire, seems to be setting about its work in the right way. Its Committee feels that the first and most imperative need is the procuring of definite information about (a) the openings for women in the various overseas Dominions, (b) the conditions of life in these new and often partially-settled countries, and considers that, for this purpose, expert and salaried agents are indispensable.

They propose to establish at once in the Colonies responsible paid agents, who will report constantly to the office in London on all matters connected with women of the educated class. The first of these will be established next month in British Columbia. The question of efficiency is, however, so bound up with the success of the work that this Society does not undertake responsibility for any candidate who cannot satisfy the committee that she has received definite training for the post to which they are recommending her, or for the work which she desires to take up.

At a meeting of the Birmingham City Council last week a resolution was submitted in favour of a petition to Parliament praying for facilities for the passing of the Parliamentary Franchise (Women) Bill, 1911. The voting was: For, 31; against, 15; neutral, two.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)