

LEGAL MATTERS.

A NURSE'S DEATH.

A sad case was heard in the Goole County Court last week, before Deputy-Judge Alexander, when Mrs. Hannah Suddaby, of Caistor, sued the Goole Joint Hospital Board for £150 compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act for the loss of her daughter, who died as the result of contracting enteric fever at the Board's Hospital in December.

The Matron, Miss Wright, stated that over thirty cases of enteric fever were treated in the hospital last autumn. Her own sister, who was a nurse there, contracted it, and was, by the doctor's permission, nursed in the residential block, and was in contact with other nurses. She had a relapse on December 1st. Seven days later Nurse Suddaby became ill and was removed to the hospital.

Under cross-examination, the witness admitted that during convalescence her sister had meals with herself and the nurses, and that one of the nurses wrote to the Joint Hospital Board and an inquiry was held.

On behalf of the Board, it was urged that the nurse's death was not due to accident within the meaning of the Act. This view was taken by the Judge, who gave a verdict in favour of the Hospital Board, but considered it should not apply for costs.

We consider it quite inexcusable to allow a patient convalescing from enteric to take her meals with the nurses; nor should any infectious case of this nature be nursed in a residential home when other nurses are likely to come in contact with infection.

ASSAULT ON A PATIENT.

At the Wakefield City Court last week Miss Mary B. Wakefield, recently employed as a night nurse at the Wakefield Asylum, was convicted of assaulting a patient, and fined £2 and £2 2s. 6d. costs.

It was stated in evidence, that on New Year's Eve, a patient, who was dying, had three relatives with her during the night. About five o'clock in the morning, Eliza Withers, the patient on whom the assault was committed, got out of her bed, and under that of the dying patient. When the nurse's attention was directed to this, she pulled Withers by her hair, and put her back to bed. Subsequently, she again became restless, and got under her own bed. The nurse then put her back to bed, and severely smacked her on the face several times. The three visitors reported this to the Medical Superintendent the next morning, who sent for the nurse. She admitted the facts, and was summarily dismissed. At the City Court proceedings, she pleaded not guilty.

As there is no state registration of nurses in force, there is nothing to prevent this nurse from obtaining the care of private patients.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

WOMEN.

A memorial petitioning that the Criminal Law Amendment Bill be immediately adopted as a Government measure has been sent to Mr. Asquith on behalf of the British National Council of the Young Women's Christian Association. Copies of the memorial have also been sent to Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Bonar Law, Mr. Balfour, and Mr. Ramsay MacDonald.

On May 9th the Union Government, Cape Town, gave special facilities for the discussion in the House of Assembly of the motion of Sir Thomas Smartt, the Leader of the Opposition, declaring that, in view of the state of anxiety of the public mind as to the increasing prevalence of crimes of rape and assault with intent, the Government should consider the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry for the purpose of submitting recommendations for dealing with individual offences and the prevention of such crimes.

General Hertzog, the Minister of Justice, said that the Government had hitherto hesitated to appoint a Commission, as such a course would immediately bring the whole native problem before the country. He, however, quoted statistics to show that assaults were increasing.

General Botha, the Premier, assured the House that the Government would do everything in its power to terminate "this diabolical sort of crime," irrespective of cost. He promised to appoint a thoroughly capable commission to make full investigation. In the meanwhile, it is to be hoped that Lord Gladstone whose misguided leniency towards a Kaffir criminal guilty of criminal assault is blamed for the increase of these appalling crimes—will be given to understand by the white women of South Africa that unless he advocates their protection with all his power, they must take effective means to protect their own honour. A white woman's League for the Protection of Honour should be at once organised. We know of many nurses whose work would be most valuable to United South Africa who will not run the black peril risk—they all go to Canada instead.

The Irish Women's Franchise League have decided to advise all their members to withdraw from the United Irish League as a protest against the Irish vote against the Conciliation Bill.

President Taft of the United States has issued a public appeal to the women of California—where the State primary elections take place this week. This appeal, we are told, is the first of its kind ever made by a President of the U.S.A. Why certainly. Californian women are voters now and count.

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