

DOCTORS AND THE INSURANCE ACT.

The result of the voting on resolutions in considering the National Insurance Act by the representative meeting of the British Medical Association at Liverpool has been eagerly awaited by the public, and, we have no doubt, by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The members decided that medical men should be left free to accept service under the Act in regard to sanatorium benefit, while refusing it in regard to medical benefit. The reason for this seems to be that many members of the profession see no reason to object to the salaries and appointments in connection with sanatorium benefit, and would indeed be quite willing to work the Act in regard to medical benefits if the terms were such as they considered fair.

In a masterly letter to the *Times* Sir Clifford Allbutt proves there is danger in a cheap medical service becoming stereotyped in practice—a pill and potion practice on rule of thumb diagnosis! and adds, "My fear is lest the Insurance Act prove to be one more and a big example of our inveterate habit of ignoring causes and throwing all our strength into the mopping up of consequences."

ACTED AS A NURSE.

THREE CONVICTIONS FOR BIGAMY.

A young woman, giving the name of Mary Leslie, on July 16th pleaded guilty to a charge of bigamy at a pleading diet of the Edinburgh Sheriff Court, before Sheriff-Principal Maconochie. The woman is said to have acted as a nurse.

The charge in the present instance was that on the second of April this year, in a solicitor's office in Edinburgh, she being the lawful wife of Albert Esgate, carpenter, and he being still alive, she bigamously married another man.

Her record is that during the last eleven years she has been sentenced several times for fraud and theft and this is the third time she has been convicted of bigamy, having contracted bigamous marriages with an Edinburgh merchant, a student at Edinburgh University, and now a young Rochdale gentleman. Between the two last episodes she "acted as a nurse" in the South of England, and was staying with the parents of the young man from Rochdale when her arrest for the third time on a charge of bigamy took place. She is described as "having an engaging manner which has repeatedly stood in her good stead."

In sentencing her to eighteen months' imprisonment, His Lordship said it was a bad and extraordinary case. It was the third case of bigamy.

Is this the kind of woman the public desire to have in their houses in the confidential relationship of a trained nurse? If there is no State Register of Trained Nurses when she comes out of jail she will be able to pose as a trained nurse with impunity, and her "engaging manner" will no doubt stand her in good stead.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

WOMEN.

Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence and Mrs. Pankhurst have gone abroad to in some degree recover their shattered health, resulting from the hunger strike in prison, and have publicly intimated that they will not hold themselves responsible for the actions of individual suffragists during the suspension of their leadership. They are to be welcomed back as leaders of the W.S.P.U. at a great meeting at the Albert Hall in October.

Mrs. Garrett Fawcett—the veteran suffragist, and leader of the constitutional party—has addressed an open letter to the militants begging them to drop their policy, which she considers is alienating public sympathy from the cause of women's enfranchisement.

The press consider—and they know a few things under the rose—that the militant suffragists have inaugurated a reign of terror amongst Cabinet Ministers. Scotland Yard for some time past has devoted its energies to the protection of Ministers singled out for attack—Mr. Asquith, Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Harcourt, and Mr. McKenna are closely guarded at home and abroad by detectives.

The *Standard* reports that at a recent meeting Miss Fraser, in the course of her address, told the following story about a South African, who said he had always been in favour of Woman's Suffrage, but had reason lately to doubt his wisdom in upholding it. Asked what had made him change, he said that in New Zealand since women had the vote all the old stiffs had left the country for home. "Old Stiffs! Who and what are Old Stiffs?" "Why, all the drunk and incorrigibles, of course, and if women get the vote here they'll be sending all the Old Stiffs over to us." "Then," replied Miss Fraser, "you had better give the vote to the women in South Africa, and get rid of your Old Stiffs from there." This is a very direct compliment to the moral influence of women in politics.

Canon Henson, of Westminster, begs everybody to spend the petty sum of 1s. 5d. in obtaining the Putumayo Blue Book and learning something of the possibilities of commercial greed in the twentieth century. We need not go to Peru to realise the worship of the Golden Calf—let the good Canon step across the road and remonstrate with the Members of the House of Commons, who have voted themselves large salaries, partly paid by taxing women, to whom they deny representation, and whom, moreover, they imprison and spitefully use—for objecting to this "commercial greed," of taxation without representation.

The horrors in Putumayo are abominable, but the horrors of Holloway are worse.

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