

LEGAL MATTERS.

Mildred Trafford Nott, who was charged at Clerkenwell County Court, as we reported last week, with obtaining charitable contributions by false pretences, and who represented that she belonged to the Royal Maternity Charity, and appeared in the dock in nursing uniform, was convicted and sent by Mr. Bros to prison for three months in the second division. There were various previous convictions against her.

On enquiry from the Secretary of the Royal Maternity Charity, we learn that this woman has no connection with the Charity. She received the instruction qualifying her to present herself for the examination of the Central Midwives Board as its pupil, but never entered for this examination, and has no certificate of competence from the Charity, but merely one stating that she had had the above experience. So far as Major Killick is aware, she has received no other training. Yet, we ask nurses to note, that throughout her trial she appeared in the dock in nursing uniform, and paragraphs reporting it appeared in the papers with the heading "Nurse sent to prison." The moral is plain. The title of midwife is protected by law, and its use by unauthorised persons punishable under the Midwives Act. The title of trained nurse has no such protection, and may be assumed with impunity by any adventuress.

A PROSPEROUS COMPANY.

The Earl of Errol, K.T., C.B., Chairman, presiding at the annual general meeting of Bovril, Ltd., last week said, in moving the adoption of the Report, that never in the history of the company had Bovril sold so well as in the year just closed, the sales being far ahead of all previous records. The sales for January also were in excess of all records for that month, which proved that the food value and body building powers of Bovril were being increasingly recognised. The cost of manufacture had considerably increased. The enormous increase in the demand for cattle all over the world must intimately affect the Company, and bottles, boxes, and packing material had also increased in cost. Bovril, Ltd., is therefore much to be congratulated on its continued prosperity.

FOREWARNED IS FOREARMED.

Princess Henry of Battenberg attended a meeting of the Colonial Nursing Association and the British Women's Emigration Association at the Imperial Institute on the 13th inst., to consider some aspects of Colonial Nursing. Mrs. Charles Hobhouse is reported to have said that the demand for nurses in the Colonies was very great, owing to the increasing population, and the type of nurse who was being sent out was changing. There was a greater demand for the emigration nurse—the woman who was willing to make her

home in the Colonies. The tendency was in the direction of specialisation. The Colonies were asking for special teachers, special domestic servants, and special nurses. They were, therefore, considering whether there should not be some sort of fusion of Associations concerned with nursing in the Colonies, and they were in favour of amalgamation. But there were difficulties in the way. She thought they had a real desire to provide the Colonies with fully trained nurses, and she was sure that there were many present who would be anxious to see that their annual reports did not show such adverse results as they showed at present.

Miss Amy Hughes, in an account of nursing work in Australia, said that before going out to that country it was necessary for all nurses to ascertain the standard and the qualifications of work. The training of nurses in England was in a chaotic condition, and it was of vital importance that the women who went to Australia should have a standard training.

We are glad to note that Miss Amy Hughes laid stress on the high nursing standards required in the Colonies. In many the nurses have a three years' term of training, and a system of registration, either legal or voluntary, and it would be an inexcusable injustice for any Association at home to attempt to undermine such standards by emigrating to such Colonies semi-trained so-called specialists. We hope the Trained Nurses Organisations in our self-governing Dominions will make this quite plain to Emigration Societies in England, and that they will not for a moment tolerate any system or standard which undermines that which they have so successfully established for the benefit of the public. This is not only an educational, but it is an economic question, and a stitch in time saves nine.

Next week we shall refer to the illuminating articles contributed to *Una*, the official organ of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, by Miss Gretta Lyons, of Victoria—who enquired into nursing conditions in England last year—in which she speaks very plainly of the disastrous results to nursing here, owing to the unrestricted competition between trained and semi-trained nurses.

Our advice to the nurses in our self-governing Dominions is to stand in firm opposition to any depreciation of their standards, so hardly won, by the competition of uneducated, semi-trained, so-called specialists emigrated from England, upon the recommendation of committees of unprofessional people who know nothing of nursing education, and to whose depreciation of our work much of the present disorganisation is due.

ROYAL PATRONAGE FOR SANITAS.

The "Sanitas" Company, Ltd., of Limehouse, London, E., have by Royal Warrant been appointed disinfectant manufacturers to His Majesty King George V.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)