

"TRAINED BY HER OWN EXPERIENCE."

NURSE'S FRAUDS AT PAIGNTON.

At Paignton last week, before Messrs. G. Prestige (chairman), W. J. Ham, and G. S. Bridgman, Emily Foster, an elderly woman, in the dress of a nurse, of Torquay, was brought up in custody charged on remand with obtaining 2s. 6d. by false pretences from John Knight, fishmonger, Paignton. On January 3rd defendant borrowed the half-crown from Mr. Knight by representing herself as a nurse at the South Eden Nursing Home in Adelphi Terrace, but it was subsequently ascertained that she was not employed there. Defendant was further charged with obtaining 2s. 6d. by false pretences from Albert Hicks, dairyman, Victoria Street, also early in January. Defendant called at Mr. Hicks' shop and asked him to lend her 10s., immediately afterwards saying she meant 2s. 6d. She also said she belonged to the South Eden Nursing Home, and thereupon Mr. Hicks let her have 2s. 6d. which had not been repaid. Miss Caroline Robertson, proprietress of the nursing home, stated that defendant was a nurse there for two or three days in February of last year, but no nurse of that name was there in January of this year. Defendant elected to be tried by the Bench, and pleaded not guilty. She admitted borrowing the money, but said she had no intention to defraud, and intended paying the money back. She did not remember mentioning the nursing home. Being short of money, she went to Paignton and called at several shops and borrowed money at each.

Defendant was further charged with obtaining on February 3rd 2s. 6d. by false pretences from Samuel Hunter, butcher, Victoria Street, of whom she borrowed the money by representing herself as from the Cottage Hospital. Miss Clara Sayers, the Matron, stated that defendant had not been employed there. Defendant stated that on the day in question she went to five places and borrowed 2s. 6d. at each. In reply to the Chairman, who asked her if she had a nurse's certificate, defendant said she had been a nurse seventeen years, but had no hospital training, having been trained by her own experience.

The Bench intimated that they had decided to convict, upon which Superintendent Roberts said there were several other charges, but he did not propose to prefer any more. There was no previous conviction. The Bench, however, intimated that they would like to hear one more case, and defendant was further charged with obtaining 2s. 6d. by false pretences from Samuel H. Lambshead, one of the directors of Deller's, Ltd., also early in February. Mr. Lambshead said defendant called at the chemist's department and asked him for a loan of 2s. 6d., saying she was a nurse at the South Eden Home, and he thereupon lent her the money. Defendant said she paid back the

2s. 6d. to a young lady the same night, but Mr. Lambshead explained that he found that defendant had borrowed 2s. 6d. from another department; and that this was not the same 2s. 6d. as she borrowed from him.

Superintendent Roberts stated that defendant had been behaving in a similar way at Torquay, where charges could be preferred, but he did not propose to proceed with them later. The Chairman said the Bench were sorry to see a person of such apparently respectable position in the dock on these charges, and they sentenced her to a month's imprisonment in the second division.

What a pity this "respectable person" was not a member of the W.S.P.U., and had not also broken a bit of glass as well as swindled; no doubt then her sentence might have been six months "hard" and honest tradesmen protected from her blandishments! No doubt she wore a nurse's uniform to impress her victims.

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