

LEGAL MATTERS.

PARALYSED PATIENT SCALDED.

The circumstances of the death of a patient at a Private Asylum, two weeks after a bath in which her feet and the lower part of her legs were scalded, and her hips blistered, directs attention to the fact that baths should invariably be tested by the thermometer. The jury found that she had died from general paralysis of the insane, accelerated by scalds which were caused by the nurse forgetting to use a thermometer.

NURSE CHARGED WITH THEFTS.

Ada Gertrude Missenden, described as a mental nurse, and formerly Night Sister at an L.C.C. Asylum, was brought up at Marylebone, before Mr. Paul Taylor, after having been bound over at the East Sussex Quarter Sessions last week, charged with stealing and receiving a set of furs, a camera, and other articles valued at £11, from a residential home for nurses in the West End.

In November, 1911, Miss Clara Maney and the accused were staying at the Home, and Miss Maney went to a case. Sending to the Home three weeks afterwards for some things from her wardrobe, it was found that it had been opened and ransacked. A brooch which was amongst the missing articles led to the arrest of the accused.

Detective-Sergeant Parsons gave evidence as to the charges preferred against her at the East Sussex Quarter Sessions, including the theft of a quantity of dresses and furs from a house where she had been engaged at Crowborough. Medical evidence was offered that she had been attending insane persons and given way to drugs, hence the decision.

He subsequently arrested her at the Lewes police station, and brought her to London on the present charge. On the way he informed her that at least four nurses' wardrobes had been broken open and ransacked; as he had taken possession of a quantity of jewellery and clothing perhaps she would help him to distinguish between the things which did and did not belong to her. This she declined to do. One of the nurses informed the officer that she had lost jewellery from her wardrobe to the value of £56, and ten pawn tickets for jewellery were found in the possession of the prisoner.

The accused was remanded, and the case is being tried as we go to press.

TWELVE MONTHS' HARD LABOUR.

At the Kent Quarter Sessions Lily Everitt, described as a nurse, was sentenced on Jan. 3rd to twelve months' hard labour for stealing a tiara and other articles worth £40 from a furnished house at Bromley in which she was tenant. Having left the house at Bromley, she was arrested through a ruse on the part of the police, as she applied for the post of housekeeper which had been inserted by them in a London newspaper. Her handwriting was recognised and she was arrested.

"MEHR SONNE"* (MORE SUN).

In the preface which foreshadows the tragic story, the writer of this interesting book—Sister Cecilia Wolff—speaks, with the authority of one who knows about the facts of the case, for the secular trained nurse of the present day in Germany. These facts are nothing less than grave indictments against the authorities, who are apparently not alive to their responsibilities towards the servants of the sick. The public, too, are not blameless, for we are told that much has been written and spoken about the protection of Nursing Sisters—called by one writer the "step-children of Social Politics"—and yet nothing real or definite for their alleviation has been done. The writer's remarks apply altogether to the Secular Sisters. She explains that the position of the Religious Nursing Sister is infinitely better, who is also spared all anxiety about the future.

It goes without saying that there must be something very wrong about a system when suicide is recorded as a common cause of death in the mortality among these nurses in the year 1910. "I myself," writes an elderly Sister, "remember twenty suicides." These statistics are truly staggering. The writer's explanation of the existing state of things is: First, that there is a great deficiency of hospital nurses (which can well be accounted for), whereas among private nurses, where conditions are much more favourable, the supply is greater than the demand; secondly, there being no inducements for educated women to enter the profession—although there is the demand—they naturally keep out of it.

The story, written in vivid descriptive language, is throughout a pitiful illustration of these recorded facts, and forms an eloquent commentary on Dr. Hecker's famous speech dealing with the same subject at the recent International Nursing Congress held at Cologne. The heroine, Else Schön, is a well-educated girl, the daughter of a rich merchant, who, full of ideals and noble aspirations, overcomes the objections of her family and goes into a hospital to train. A family friend, the Sanitätsrat, who has known the girl all her life, tries to dissuade her from her purpose. She speaks rapturously of her ideals, he pityingly tries to spare her from the inevitable disillusionment. The kind old doctor admires the spirit and steadfast aim of the girl, and having proved that she has at least the needful characteristics for the difficult life, and failing to turn her from her purpose, he gives her what encouragement he can. She enters the hospital full of health and strength and inexperience. The author skilfully describes the manifold shocks and surprises which the girl has to encounter. The sickness and death of the patients make a strong appeal to her heart, and she proves herself to be

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