

LEGAL MATTERS.

"NURSE BETTY."

At Marlborough Street Police Court, on Thursday, 19th, Queenie Gerald, twenty-six, described as an actress, of Abingdon House, Haymarket, was charged on remand with having lived on the earnings of certain young girls. The public were excluded.

The magistrate said the names of the girls who gave evidence should not be published. One girl said she was waiting for another girl who had entered the building when a woman in nurses' dress (who gives her name as "Nurse Betty") invited her in. The prisoner gave her money.

Detective-Inspector Currey said that while he was at the flat a man called. Witness took his name and address.

On Friday, at the hearing of the second charge, a hairdresser offered to be bail for the woman. He had known her for several years.

The Magistrate: Do you know her proper name?—Yes; she is Mrs. —

To the reporters present the magistrate said: "You fully understand you are here as a privilege."

Gerald was remanded on bail, herself in £1,000 and a £500 surety.

To inquiries made by the editor at Scotland Yard she was informed that "Nurse Betty" was not under arrest. There was absolutely no law forbidding anyone to wear nursing uniform for any purpose whatever. "Nurse Betty," who, it will be remembered, opened the door of Queenie Gerald's flat when it was raided by the police in reference to the White Slave Traffic, presented herself in nurse's uniform, had a right to wear it if she chose—she claims to be a "mental nurse"—and apparently has broken no law.

"How would you like your uniform used by men under the same circumstances?" police constables were asked.

"Not at all, not at all," all three replied at once; "but *our* uniform is protected," they informed us with a broad smile of satisfaction. "And so are those of soldiers and sailors."

"Yes," we replied; "male voters are protected all along the line; but voteless, the honourable garb of the women nurses may be dragged in the mire by any criminal. Think of this when next you are hustling refined women to Holloway in Black Maria for militant protest." What an outrage to decency is the disfranchised position of women!

REGISTRATION TAKES ROOT IN CANADA.

This month's *Canadian Nurse* contains the text of the Nurses' Registration Act for the Province of Manitoba. The title of Registered Nurse is protected. The term of grace lasts until July 1916, after which date the term of training is to be for three years. Thus registration has taken root in Canada. One more lever for our emancipation at home.

REFLECTIONS

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The Westminster Hospital Bill will soon be law, and power given to the Governors to dispose of the very valuable site upon which it at present stands. It was founded as long ago as 1720, and few people at the present day know that St. George's, at Hyde Park Corner, was originally an off-shoot of it. This is a fact which may be stranger than fiction, if, as it has been suggested, these two hospitals again unite under one management, sell their sites, and together build one splendid new hospital of 600 beds in a district in which they can better serve the poor. This question of amalgamation is now under consideration, and it is rumoured that the Canadian Government is prepared to pay £250,000 for the Westminster site, and the American Government half a million of money for the ground now occupied by St. George's, upon which to place the American Embassy. Both hospitals have invested funds and other assets, so that together they could not only find the money to build the most modern of hospitals, but a substantial sum towards endowment as well.

The recommendation of the final report of the Departmental Committee on Tuberculosis to appoint a Medical Research Committee, to be charged with the duty of directing, controlling, and correlating investigations into the etiology, pathology, and other aspects of tuberculosis, has been acted upon by the Government, under the chairmanship of Lord Moulton of Bank. An Advisory Committee has also been appointed, upon which two women have been placed. As this Research Committee is to deal with the money available for research under the National Insurance Act (£37,000), let us hope the Black Plague as well as the White Plague may be seriously dealt with.

The King and Queen have been graciously pleased to give their patronage to the National Gas Congress and Exhibition, organised by a joint committee, representing the Institution of Gas Engineers, the Society of British Gas Industries, the British Commercial Gas Association, and the Municipal and Private Gas undertakings of the United Kingdom, which will be held at Shepherd's Bush in October next. Her Royal Highness Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, whose warm support of the Coal Smoke Abatement movement, as of all schemes having for their object the betterment of the sanitary and social conditions of the people, has also consented to give her patronage to the undertaking. This Congress and Exhibition are being planned on broad, co-operative lines, not for individual profit, but to demonstrate the service which the gas industry can render the public, in aiding to solve the problems of smoke nuisance, domestic service, and national health.

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