

LEGAL MATTERS.

In the course of a prosecution brought before the stipendiary magistrate at the Sheffield Police Court, recently, against Miss Amelia Scott, Sister-in-Charge of a scarlet fever ward at the Lodge Moor Hospital, Sheffield, it was alleged that she "did wilfully assault, neglect and ill-treat Wilfrid Cadman, aged 2 years and 8 months, in a manner likely to cause him unnecessary suffering and injury to his health."

For the prosecution Mr. R. F. Payne claimed that there was not the slightest doubt that the cruel treatment by Miss Scott absolutely led to the death of the child, who, before going into the hospital, was one of the healthiest and finest little children in all Sheffield. The Stipendiary pointed out that the charges went beyond mere unkind treatment and amounted to manslaughter; it ought to be shown if there were foundation for them.

After hearing the evidence the Stipendiary held that it was not sufficient to send the case for trial and dismissed it, at the same time stating he was prepared to hear an explanation from the defendant if she cared to give it, which she decided not to do.

But though the criminal charge has failed, the nursing aspect remains, and if the facts are as stated, and not denied, we have no hesitation in saying that the methods of nursing, or lack of nursing, and want of humanity, revealed deserve the gravest censure.

It appears that at the Lodge Moor Hospital the feet of all scarlet fever patients are soaked to accelerate the peeling process. Because Wilfrid Cadman, little more than a baby, kicked and splashed and cried, when the water got cold, it is alleged that Miss Scott sent him out to the bathroom, where he was shut up and left to cry till he was tired, no one going to see how he was getting on. He was left there for two hours without shoes and stockings, and "only the bowl of cold water and the concrete floor for his poor little feet."

Mrs. Annie Wright, formerly a patient in the hospital, said that reasonable people, knowing the difficulties in the ward, would go to the hot-water tap and get water for themselves if the water became cold.

Others, former patients, said (1) that the soaking of the feet was not comfortable because the water was cold, and (2) that patients had to wait till someone changed it; (3) that when the child Wilfrid Cadman was taken out to the bathroom his legs were blue and his clothes wet. A little girl, aged 11, said that she shared a bowl of water with Wilfrid; she did not complain of the cold water because she was afraid of Sister Scott.

If Miss Scott had any reply to these charges it is to be regretted that she did not avail herself of the opportunity given her by the Stipendiary to make it. If not, though the evidence did not suffice for a court of law, at the bar of professional opinion the methods of nursing as reported will be unhesitatingly condemned.

LECTURES ON TUBERCULOSIS TO NURSES.

A series of six lectures to nurses on pulmonary tuberculosis, delivered originally to Queen's Nurses by Mr. Olliver Bruce, M.R.C.S., joint tuberculosis officer for the County of Essex, has been published by Messrs. H. K. Lewis, 136, Gower Street, W.C. The price of the book is 2s. 6d. net. Its object is to be of service to nurses in connection with their work under the Insurance Act, for which there is a great demand. The author after mentioning that tuberculosis is responsible for more deaths amongst the peoples of the world than all other infectious diseases put together, asserts that "in the existing stage of our knowledge medical science alone is unable to cope with the evil. Physicians can do much, the lay public can do much, but without the help of women, and in particular nurses, the efforts must end in failure. On them it devolves in a very large degree to educate the people as to the methods of life which are best calculated to prevent the spread of infection from one individual to another, and as to the best means of raising the personal resistance against disease." The lectures are admirably practical, and up-to-date, and will unquestionably be of great use to nurses undertaking tuberculosis work.

Other books of interest to nurses, published by the same firm, are "Lectures on Medical Electricity to Nurses," by Dr. J. Delpratt Harris, written with a view to meeting their special needs, price 2s. 6d.; and "Hygiene of the Nursery," by Dr. Louis Starr, Physician to the Children's Hospital, Philadelphia, price 3s. 6d.

A CHARMING CALENDAR.

A charming calendar for 1914 has been issued by Mellin's Food, Ltd., reproducing, in the finest colour printing, the famous picture "Madame Le Brun and Child," of which the original is in the Louvre Collection. The picture is worthy not only of the ephemeral life of an annual, but of framing as a permanent addition to the works of art with which a nurse loves to decorate her special sanctum. A copy of this beautiful calendar will be sent to readers of this JOURNAL who cut out this notice and forward it with three penny stamps to Mellin's Food, Ltd., Stafford Street, Peckham, London, S.E.

NURSES' CHORAL AND SOCIAL LEAGUE.

The programme of singing classes arranged under the auspices of the Nurses' Choral and Social League for the winter session is now announced—the first being on November 15th, at 7.45 p.m., at 8, Heddon Street, Regent Street, W. All Nurses are welcome to join, and particulars may be obtained from the President, Mrs. Carreg-McGowan, 50, Queen's Gate, S.W., and the Hon. Secretary, Miss Violet Lewis, 43, West Cromwell Road, S.W.

The President is issuing invitations to an At Home on December 4th.

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