

The public want to know why it was not charged in the indictment.

We must also draw attention to the fact that during the Police Court proceedings on June 19th a witness said she was waiting for another girl, who had entered the building, when a woman, in nurses' dress, invited her in. The prisoner gave her money.

Also that the flat was decked with sixteen dozen arum lilies, that hot scented baths were prepared, that the "whips and lashes, reminiscent of Oriental orgies, were provided," and that it was stated in Court that "all sorts of practices were carried on there, and indeed the girls say they were resorted to, and the instruments that were found were in fact used there."

It has been necessary to recall the chief points of this most unsavoury case in order to appreciate the charge against the midwife Telfer and her defence. The charge upon which Miss Telfer was cited to appear before the Central Midwives Board was:—

"That you were guilty of misconduct in that in and during the year 1912, and the year 1913, you were employed by, and assisted, one Queenie Gerald in the management and conduct of a disorderly house at No. 229, Piccadilly, in the County of London."

Miss Telfer (not in uniform) appeared before the Board and was defended by her solicitor, Mr. Edward Davis.

In estimating the truth of the defence put forward by the accused midwife that she was unaware of the business carried on by Mrs. Gerald, we ask our readers to note,

1. The evidence offered in the legal proceedings against Queenie Gerald.
2. The fact that the accused midwife was trained both as a midwife and as a mental nurse, and that her age was thirty-six.
3. That she lived with Queenie Gerald for three years.

Mr. Bertram, solicitor to the Board, in opening the case referred to the proceedings against Queenie Gerald at the County of London Sessions, and to depositions then made.

He also read a declaration from Chief Detective Inspector John Curry, who stated that on June 14th, 1913, when effecting the arrest of Queenie Gerald, he saw on the premises Nurse Betty, whose name was Elizabeth Telfer.

He then asked Mr. G. W. Duncan, Secretary to the Board, to state what he had been informed by Miss Telfer.

Mr. Duncan said that she had called upon him, and denied assisting in keeping a disorderly house. She admitted that she lived for three years with Queenie Gerald, but denied any personal misconduct. She said that she was servant to Gerald and that her duties were to open the door, and clean the house, at a weekly wage.

Mr. Bertram stated that a girl in the Queenie Gerald case, who was thought to be several months pregnant, deposed: "Nurse Betty took me to

a doctor at Brixton who gave me medicine which I took. It did not have any effect."

Mr. Davis objected to the depositions in the Queenie Gerald case being read. Nothing in them was evidence against Miss Telfer, and she was not a party in the action in the Criminal Court. Had she been, she would have had the right to cross-examine the witnesses. Their statements might or might not have been true. Miss Telfer desired to say that in many instances their evidence was false. They were unreliable witnesses, and their evidence was worthless, even with cross-examination.

Inspector Curry's evidence was true. When Queenie Gerald was arrested, and he asked Miss Telfer why she was dressed as a nurse, her reply was, "I am a nurse." She was frightened by Inspector Curry, who said, "Unless you help us in this it will be the worse for you." She then said she had the certificate of the Board. He admitted that she was ill-advised to remain in the employ of Queenie Gerald, but she said she did not know what Mrs. Gerald was doing. Also she was nurse to Mrs. Gerald herself.

Had there been any charge of aiding and abetting Queenie Gerald she should have been charged at the Criminal Court as accessory. It was very hard on Miss Telfer to have to meet this informal charge.

Another point was that when Miss Telfer went into Mrs. Gerald's service she had been out of employment for some considerable period, and was anxious for work. She was innocent of any knowledge of her business.

The girls had not come on the scene till October last year. Immediately they did she gave notice. The arrest took place in June. She stayed on indefinitely because Mrs. Gerald was looking for another servant.

Mr. Davis suggested that a servant was not responsible for the acts of her mistress. His client was most desirous of obtaining a proper livelihood.

#### A PLEA FOR "HUSHING UP."

Mr. Davis urged that if the Board saw fit to remove his client's name from the Roll, there should be no publicity, and that she should not be deprived of the means of earning a livelihood. She was getting her living by attending to various cases. He read a letter stating that Miss Telfer had been in a house for many weeks in the capacity of mental nurse, asserting that she was in every way acceptable in the house.

The Chairman reminded Mr. Davis that the Press was present.

#### APPEAL TO THE PRESS.

Thereupon the solicitor turned round to the Press table, and said he appealed to the Press not to prevent his client from getting her livelihood in an honourable and proper manner.

Mr. Davis then said to Miss Telfer that she had heard the statements made in regard to her arrangements with Mrs. Gerald, would she tell

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