

LEGAL MATTERS.

A FATAL MISTAKE.

At an inquest on a patient who died at the Spalding Hospital last week, owing to a solution of pure carbolic, 1 in 3, having been applied to her head, by a probationer, instead of a liquid solution diluted ready for use, the jury returned a verdict of misadventure. They blamed the probationer for not using proper care, censured the staff nurse for deputing the work to her without supervision, and severely condemned the very lax way that poisons were stored at the hospital, and expressed the opinion that poisons should only be accessible to the matron or staff nurse.

GUILTY BUT INSANE.

The sad case of Emily Cowe, a maternity nurse charged at the Central Criminal Court with the murder of her boy aged eleven, ended in the verdict that the prisoner was guilty of the act charged, but that she was insane at the time and not responsible for her actions.

The case was a peculiarly sad one. The prisoner's husband committed suicide in 1902, and an elder boy in 1912, and the accused woman had been in the habit of taking morphine or morphia for sleeplessness. She stated in cross-examination that the deceased boy was not an ordinary one, and in the summer threatened to commit suicide in front of an express train if she did not send him 5s. She was very fond of the boy, and never touched him.

Mr. Justice Ridley directed that the prisoner should be detained until his Majesty's pleasure was known. We hope this poor woman, who has had more than her share of the tragedies of life, will now have skilled care and supervision.

REID v. CUPPER AND WIFE.

In our last issue we reported that Miss M. C. Reid, a certificated nurse, brought an action against her employer, Mr. Oscar Cupper, of Hanover Gate Mansions, Regent's Park, for damages for alleged assault, imprisonment, and wrongful dismissal concerning which the jury disagreed.

Last week Miss Reid brought a further action for slander against Mr. and Mrs. Cupper, which came before Mr. Justice Darling and a special jury.

Mr. J. B. Matthews, who appeared for the plaintiff, said that the first action would be entered in the list again for trial in due course. His client wished to consolidate the actions, but the defendants did not agree.

The alleged slander, of which Nurse Reid complained, came to light when witnesses in the other case were giving their statements to the solicitors. It was alleged that after the nurse had left the flat Mrs. Cupper made the following statement in the presence of the parlourmaid and cook:

"My husband said, 'Let's search her boxes, she might be a thief. We do not know who she is or where she has come from.' Of course I did not

let him do that. Nurse talked about it being necessary to have a warrant; she must be accustomed to this sort of thing, as she knows the law so well."

The jury returned a verdict in favour of the defendants, for whom judgment was entered with costs.

THE WEST END MESSAGE PROSECUTION.

Violet Osborne Gray was, on Friday, December 13th, again brought up at the Marylebone Police Court, charged with keeping an alleged message house at 31, Thayer Street, W., as a disorderly house, and of exercising control for the purpose of gain, over the movements of two women.

Alice Hill, aged 18½, who said she had been leading a fast life before she met the prisoner in February, stated that the prisoner undertook to teach her massage, and intimated at the same time that impropriety was carried on in her house. She was to get 5s. in the £1 of the money received from visitors.

The woman dressed as a nurse, who sat at the door to receive callers, did not appear.

The case was adjourned.

WHERE TO SHOP.

Those who desire to find good value for their money when doing their Christmas shopping cannot do better than visit the toy bazaar at Messrs. Garrould's, 150 Edgware Road, W., and this is especially the case with the members of the nursing staffs of hospitals who wish to furnish Christmas-trees, or to find gifts small and large of amazing value.

If any of those possessed of larger incomes than usually fall to the lot of woman workers desire to present to a hospital a gift which will give an immense amount of pleasure they should purchase one of the gramophones now being shown by Messrs. Garrould, of an unusually high quality, and extremely moderate in price, beginning, in fact, at 19s. 11d. The records cost 2s. 6d. each, but as they are double this really means 1s. 3d., and music grave and gay, orchestral, instrumental, songs, Christmas carols—anything and everything—may be secured. The pleasure and amusement obtainable are endless.

Then there are picture books, toys, crackers, "trimmings" for Christmas trees, at prices to suit even the slenderest purses, and, of course, in the nurses' saloon there are always many things on view which are most welcome to nurses themselves. Our advice to all is go and see.

Then a gift which is always acceptable to a nurse who, as Miss M. Loane rightly notes, needs a larger allowance of blankets than ordinary people, and really suffers if she does not have it, is a rubber hot water bottle, which, if she is private nursing, takes an inappreciable amount of room in her luggage, and is of the greatest comfort to her.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)