

"A DANIEL COME TO JUDGMENT."

Mr. Paul Taylor, the Marylebone magistrate, before whom Violet Osborne Gray appeared to answer the charge of keeping premises at 31, Thayer Street, London, W., as a disorderly house, has earned the gratitude of the nursing profession for the reference in his judgment to the misuse of the uniform of trained nurses by prostitutes. In sentencing the prisoner to three months' hard labour Mr. Taylor said that the charge of keeping a disorderly house, which was a serious one was greatly aggravated by the circumstance that the house was advertised as a massage establishment, and added:—"I am unable to accept the suggestion that the case is one which ought to be treated leniently in any sense of the word. It seems to me to be a very aggravated case. I shall always regard it as a matter of great aggravation to advertise a place of this nature as a massage house, because it sets a trap into which a perfectly respectable man might fall.

"The other matter of aggravation I look upon as serious. It is stated that there was a woman garbed in the costume of a nurse who received visitors. Considering the large number of women in this country—hard-working and honourable women in every way—who earn their living by the noble occupation of nursing that does seem to me to be really something in the nature of an unpardonable charge.

"I should like to see it made a criminal offence for anyone, in view of the noble nature of the nurse's profession, to use the garb of that profession in this manner."

Mr. George Elliott, K.C., counsel for the defence, entirely associated himself with the remarks of the magistrate as to massage advertisements and the misuse of nurses' uniform.

In our opinion those persons are primarily to blame for such injury to the nursing profession, who have for so many years opposed our legitimate demand for State organisation, giving us power to protect our own good name and the interests of the public.

ABUSE OF NURSE'S UNIFORM.

Another instance of the abuse of the nurse's uniform (says the *Daily Telegraph*) was a feature in a charge of obtaining goods by fraud and false pretences preferred against Ellen Armstrong, of 7, Luna Street, Chelsea, accused, before Mr. Horace Smith, at Westminster, of imposing on Louisa Gunner, a small general shopkeeper, of Riley Street, Chelsea.

Prisoner appeared in the dock in the full uniform of a nurse, which it was said she was anxious to change when taken into custody.

Prosecutrix deposed that on December 9th the prisoner, attired as a nurse, entered her shop and asked for groceries on credit, stating that she was a nurse in attendance on a Mrs. Wiseman, widow of Colonel Wiseman, of 102, Chelsea Embankment, a philanthropic lady, who liked to encourage small

shopkeepers with orders. Prisoner produced a letter purporting to be written by Mrs. Wiseman stating: "This is to assure you that everything my nurse has will be quite all right. I like her to order everything, as she manages so well."

Witness said, completely deceived by the uniform and the representations of prisoner, she allowed her to take away goods which had never been paid for.

Detective-sergeant Steel deposed that he arrested prisoner in uniform carrying away provisions obtained from another small shopkeeper by the same fraudulent pretence. The prisoner said: "I know I have done wrong. Let me go and I will pay her."

Prisoner was not a certificated nurse, and there would be other charges against her. Sometimes she represented that she had been a nurse out in South Africa during the war attending a Colonel Wiseman, whose widow had retained her services. The whole of the story was fictitious.

Mr. Horace Smith remanded prisoner in custody.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON VENEREAL DISEASES.

As the seventh meeting of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases, held on the 8th instant, evidence was given by Dr. Mott, F.R.S., pathologist to the London County Council Asylums and a member of the Commission.

Dr. Mott dealt first with dementia paralytica, or general paralysis of the insane. He indicated the grounds on which it is held that syphilis is the essential cause of this disease, that without syphilis there would be no general paralysis. Facts relating to general paralysis had therefore an important bearing on the Commission's inquiry. Dr. Mott gave various statistics respecting cases of this disease dealt with in the County Council Asylums. From a comparison of the figures for the last fifteen years, during which the population of London has remained practically stationary, he came to the conclusion that the admissions of cases of general paralysis were not diminishing, though he could not say that there was an increase.

The figures of annual admissions showed that 8 per cent. of the total admissions from all causes and 15½ per cent. of the male admissions were general paralytics. The male cases of general paralysis of the insane considerably out-numbered the female, the ratio between them being rather more than 5 to 1.

Tables of the numbers of cases of the disease from different districts of London indicated a higher incidence among males in the West End than in the East End, while among females the higher incidence occurred in the East End.

Dr. Mott also gave the results of some researches he had carried out regarding the existence of the effects of gonorrhœa in women

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