

on March 1st and was arrested by the Chief Constable.

Mrs. McLeod Spurgeon, of Streatham, wife of the late pastor of the Metropolitan Tabernacle, deposed that in consequence of receiving a telephone message from some one giving the name of "Nurse Plant," she went to the Great Northern Hotel on February 20th. She was shown into a sitting room and Nurse Plant sent for, who told her she was in trouble and wanted to get to Perth in Scotland. The "Nurse" asked her if she knew anyone who would advance her anything on the watch she was wearing, and eventually the witness advanced her £2 10s. Prisoner handed her the watch (which she said was her mother's) and another article of jewellery as security, and gave her a receipt for the money which she promised to pay as soon as possible.

#### NURSES' REGISTER NEEDED IN LAW COURTS.

A very important point in connection with the case is that the prisoner alleged she was a certificated nurse, that she refused to state where she was trained, and the police were unable to verify her statement. Had she claimed to be a medical practitioner the Medical Register which is filed in court, would have been produced, and the statement proved or disproved. A Register of Trained Nurses should be equally available for reference, and would have been ten years ago if Parliament had acted on the representations of nurses.

#### TRAINED NURSE SUFFERS FROM LACK OF LEGISLATION.

A very disagreeable incident connected with the case, for the nurse concerned, is that amongst the prisoner's luggage was found a copy of the numbered certificate of Miss Julia Plant, trained at St. Thomas's Hospital, and of her testimonials, in consequence of which the police communicated with the Matron of St. Thomas's Hospital, and the Matron with Miss Julia Plant. The lawful owner of the certificate has not the least idea how these copies came into the prisoner's possession. The Chief Constable at Rochester has written to Miss Julia Plant expressing his regret that she should have been troubled in the matter, but it is none the less intolerable that it should be possible, through lack of efficient legislation, for the characters of honourable trained nurses to be injured through the fraudulent use of their certificates by unprincipled persons.

The Queen, attended by Lady Mary Trefusis, paid an informal visit of inspection to the Samaritan Free Hospital for Women, Marylebone, on Monday afternoon. Her Majesty was received by the Senior Surgeon and the Matron, Miss Tice.

The King has been pleased to confer upon the Glasgow Maternity and Women's Hospital, the title of "Royal," and has commanded the hospital be designated "The Glasgow Royal Maternity and Women's Hospital."

## A MIDNIGHT DRIVE ON THE INDIAN FRONTIER.

"I am driving to-night to G—— to see a patient, will you come with me? If so, be here at 11 o'clock." "I will gladly come," replied my friend, so I get to work to prepare for the night drive of 35 miles, which I had to undertake in response to an urgent wire which reached me as I was having dinner after a long day's work. I sent off a servant to search for a tum-tum with a strong pony equal to taking us half-way, and meanwhile packed up instruments and medicines and filled up my tiffin basket. It was difficult to find a suitable tum-tum and the driver of the one that turned up said his pony was very strong but had been working all day! However, there was nothing for it but to start, hoping for the best. When we reached the bazaar we tried to find a fresher pony and plenty of drivers offered their tum-tums, but when they heard our destination they drew back. "Better wait till morning," said one. "What is the patient to do? she can't wait," I replied, and at last one man said he would take us, and then I found No. 1 intended to go as well. Evidently no one man liked to go alone on the lonely road over the pass, and later on, after my return I heard that some soldiers remarked that *they* would not have started out without revolvers; in fact I think they would not have gone at all.

The first part of the drive was along level ground—we went on steadily, now and then seeing a muffled-up traveller or passing a long string of camels moving along noiselessly in the darkness. After 10 miles we reached a thana (Police Station), near which British territory stopped and we entered the native state. The head man asked if we would like an escort. I did not think it necessary and we went on; the road now began to climb upward to the pass through the mountains which separated one valley from the one in which G—— is situated. Before long the moon rose and we could see the dry hill-sides, destitute of vegetation, all round us. By this time I was so sleepy that even the jolting caused by the bad road and the narrowness of the back seat of the tum-tum could not prevent me from dropping off to sleep at intervals. After some time I saw what I thought was a bright star in the distance, but it rapidly grew brighter and turned out to be a lantern held by the men who had come to the top of the pass to meet us. We changed into the new tum-tum and set off again; this time with an escort of two sowars, armed "to the teeth," they had swords, long knives and rifles, and looked very formidable and picturesque, too, with their strange baggy garments and long hair. Our descent was very slow, for the road was very rough and winding; at first the hill-sides looked velvety black in the faint light of the waning moon, but before we reached the bottom of the hill the dawn was breaking and

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)