

LEGAL MATTERS.

OBTAINING MONEY UNDER FALSE PRETENCES.

At the Plymouth Police Court on May 6th, Emily Foster, a middle-aged woman, of no fixed abode, described as a nurse, was charged with obtaining a shilling by means of a trick on two occasions.

The Chief Constable asked for a remand, which was granted. The prisoner was not, he said, a certificated nurse, though she had appeared in the cloak of one; he knew of five cases in which she had obtained small sums under similar circumstances. He understood she had been in gaol, and it was desirable that enquiries should be made.

AN ALLURING ADVERTISEMENT.

In response to an alluring advertisement, stating "weak sight cured in one month, wonderful results of famous specialist's treatment, ten days' free trial," Mr. Butrus Ghobrial, a dresser at Charing Cross Hospital, had the temerity to fill in a coupon which sufferers were invited to send to Dr. C. G. Percival, Gray's Inn Road, W.C. Dr. Percival replied, asking for particulars of the case, and sending a diagnostic chart to be filled up. Later, he was informed that his case was perfectly simple; all that was required was an eye-masseur, for which a guinea deposit was asked, to be returned if he was not benefited. This also was sent, but not receiving any benefit after a prolonged trial, Mr. Ghobrial called at Gray's Inn Road, where he saw "Nurse" Lily Grinyer, who was wearing a nurse's uniform. She admitted she was not qualified. He applied without success for the return of his money, and eventually consulted the British Medical Association and the Medical Defence Union. The result was that the Director of Public Prosecutions took up the case, and John Highwater, the managing director of the Highwater Laboratory and Manufacturing Co., Ltd., a limited liability company, by which the business appears to be run, and "Nurse" Lily Grinyer, were summoned for obtaining money by false pretences. The case was opened at Bow Street on Saturday last, and adjourned.

A NURSE'S INSURANCE CLAIM.

At a recent meeting of the Omagh Guardians, the clerk (Mr. Cathcart) reported that while in the employment of the Board, Nurse M'Gillion had contracted typhoid fever. She applied for sickness benefit to her Insurance Society, but they replied that it was an accident, and the Board would have to pay compensation. It appears that there was a decision in the superior courts by which infectious diseases contracted under certain circumstances were held to be accidents. No action was taken.

It may not be known to the Omagh Guardians that this decision has been reversed in a Court of Law, and as the Insurance Society is, without doubt, liable for sickness benefit under the circumstances, we hope they will insist upon Nurse M'Gillion receiving the compensation for which she has been compelled to pay.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

WOMEN.

The officers and members of the Executive Committee of the International Council of Women before leaving Rome, were received by Queen Margherita, who entertained them at tea. Her Majesty told the President, Lady Aberdeen, that she took the greatest interest in the work of the Council and followed most eagerly all manifestations of the progress and development of her sex, which could only be for the benefit of humanity.

At the last meeting of the International Council, a resolution reaffirming a motion passed in Berlin in 1904, in favour of woman suffrage, was unanimously adopted. This motion was proposed by the President of the National Council of France, and seconded by Frau Hamisch, Vice-President of the International Council.

Miss Ellen Charlotte Higgins, B.A., has been elected deputy-chairman of Convocation of the University of London.

The Government of Scotland Bill, which was talked out in the House of Commons last week, provided for granting woman suffrage to the Scots Parliament. With the blocking of social reform legislation in every direction in the Imperial Parliament, it is small wonder the different sections of the Kingdom are beginning to agitate for devolution.

Speaking at the dinner and reception held at the Hotel Cecil of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck, M.P., congratulated the members of the association on the result of the recent debate on women's suffrage in the House of Lords. No fair-minded person, he thought, could read the debate without coming to the conclusion that female suffrage was inevitable. There were a number of reforms which had for many years been knocking unheeded at the door of the House of Commons. The answers Ministers gave were always the same—they had no time! They never would have time so long as the women workers of the country were not represented in the House. Among much-needed reforms was the application of the Borstal system to women as well as to men, and he had himself moved an amendment to the Criminal Justice Administration Bill to introduce women police-constables.

The French Minister of the Interior has awarded a gold medal to Mme. Poulin, the wife of the signalman at St. Denis, in recognition of her splendid behaviour after the fatal attack on her husband. Mme. Poulin worked the signals herself for several hours while her husband was lying dying by her side.

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