

THE COURT OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS, CHICAGO.

In its Social Welfare Department, which is in charge of Miss Edna L. Foley, R.N., of the Chicago Visiting Nurse Association, the *American Journal of Nursing* publishes "as unique in nursing annals" the Report of Miss Mabel Carruthers, whose appointment as bailiff of the Court of Domestic Relations we recently announced. This Court is the only municipal one entirely given over to cases involving domestic infelicity, and now it has the added distinction of having a special court nurse. The nurse's day is given to the Court, and the afternoons are spent in visiting homes where illness or physical disability indicated that there were other causes for a domestic upheaval than incompatibility or a deserting husband. The following invaluable document will give some idea of the usefulness of a bailiff of the Court of Domestic Relations, and will perhaps inspire some of our municipal judges to follow the far-seeing vision of Judge Uhlir, of Chicago, who appointed Miss Carruthers to her responsible position:—

COURT OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS.

Report for Month Ending October 25, 1913.

Interviews in court, 105: (1) abuse 4, (2) non-support 53, (3) bastardy 24, (4) abandonment 10, (5) witness 5, (6) unclassified 9, total 105.

Abuse, 4: (a) contusion of head, 1; (b) menopause, complicated by melancholia, 1; (c) physical examinations, 2. Total, 4.

Non-support, 53: (a) physical examinations, 9; wife gynecological, placed under treatment at Polyclinic Dispensary; wife, physical exhaustion; wife, dementia; child, idiot (sent to Oak Forest); husband, epilepsy (under treatment at Rush Dispensary); husbands, tuberculosis, referred to Municipal Tuberculosis Sanatorium; husband, maniacal depressive insanity (sent to Detention Hospital); child, syphilitic and an idiot (placed in County Hospital).

(b) Mothers with babes, 11.

(c) Pregnant women, 5: all of whom were instructed and referred to other agencies for care at time of confinement.

Bastardy, 24: (a) mothers with babes, 12, one proved on examination to have varicose veins; (b) single pregnant women, 12, one with gonorrhoeal infection placed under treatment at Northwestern Dispensary; placed in homes, 2; the remaining ten have been interviewed and partial arrangements made for care during lying-in period.

Court emergencies, 3: (a) apparent hysteria, 1; (b) extreme nervousness, 1; (c) fainting spell, 1.

Cases referred from Court to other agencies, 38: (a) Infant Welfare, 14; (b) Visiting Nurse Associa-

tion, 8; (c) United Charities, 10; (d) County Agent, 2; (e) St. Vincent De Paul Society, 1; (f) Dispensary (for medical care) 3.

Total visits 39: (a) visits to homes, 34; (b) visits to other agencies, 5: County Hospital, Lodging House for Women and Children, Mothers' Homes, Florence Crittenden Home, St. Margaret's Home.

Cases referred to other agencies after home visit, 11: (a) Visiting Nurse Association, 4; (b) United Charities, 2; (c) County Agent, 1; (d) Dispensary, 2; (e) Municipal Tuberculosis Sanatorium, 1; (f) St. Vincent De Paul Society, 1.

Of the 12 unmarried pregnant women, it was possible to place only two promptly. Of the remaining 10, one reported that her lawyer's sister was going to take care of her in her own home. Further inquiry revealed the fact that this sister claimed to be a midwife.

Another particularly pathetic case was that of an immigrant girl under twenty years of age, who refused to accept hospital treatment (although more than 8 months pregnant) as she was sending \$5.00 per month of her earnings to her dependent mother in the old country and could afford to lose no time.

A third girl, though only nineteen, gave a history of two previous abortions and was anxious to have a third one performed. Her statement that she did not know this was wrong and that she did not realize that in so doing she was destroying life, was true. She had absolutely no moral sense; had never had any training or education along that line, and furthermore had a mother who felt no obligation to the girl.

Dr. Anna Dwyer's examinations in Court have revealed some startling facts as to the physical condition of many of the offenders. She found tuberculosis, insanity, idiocy, syphilis and epilepsy, besides minor ailments. We have been fortunate so far in being able to comply almost immediately with her recommendations, and the patients are now being treated in various hospitals, dispensaries and homes.

ISABELLE CARRUTHERS,
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A CONVINCING LEAFLET.

A leaflet replying to the arguments usually advanced by Anti-Registrationists against the State Registration of Trained Nurses, has been published under the authority of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses. It may be obtained price 3d. a dozen, including postage, from the Hon. Secretaries, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Registrationists should keep copies of this leaflet by them, and at once send it to the local press, to papers in which anti-registration articles appear, to their Members of Parliament, and to those connected with their local hospitals.

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