

'Sentence of six months' imprisonment was passed.

We seem to have met this woman under other aliases before. What is remarkable about the case is that having been pronounced insane by a mental specialist she should be sentenced to six months' imprisonment. Confinement in a criminal lunatic asylum at His Majesty's pleasure would seem better to meet the needs of the case.

#### "A TISSUE OF LIES FROM BEGINNING TO END."

At the Aldershot Police Court, on August 19th, as reported in the *Aldershot News*, Lucy Dudeney (aged 23) was charged with unlawfully and knowingly, by certain false pretences, obtaining from Alfred Hearne food to the value of £5 7s. 9d. between July 19th and August 6th, and James Middleton, a gunner in the Royal Field Artillery, was charged with aiding and abetting her to commit the offence.

Mabel Watson, manageress of the Royal Hotel, Aldershot, said that about July 8th Dudeney went to the hotel with Middleton, who asked her if she had a room to let, saying it was for a Red Cross nurse. She agreed to take her in. She was dressed as a Red Cross nurse, but had no veil on, and she recognised her as a woman she had travelled with in the same compartment from town a day or two before. She remained till next morning, saying that she was going out to get a veil, as she could not be seen in Aldershot without one. She then went ostensibly to obtain leave for Middleton for a few days from his superior officer, which she said she did, and left. At the end of the week she wrote asking to be put up for a few days.

She arrived, dressed as a nurse, and stayed for three weeks, without paying for anything. When the witness sent her the account Dudeney sent for her and asked her to reserve a room for her father, mother and brother. She stated that her brother was a captain in the Grenadier Guards, and was home wounded from the front, they were coming to say good-bye to her, and see her off to the Dardanelles the following Monday. She added, "Daddy will pay the bill when he comes to-morrow."

Her relatives did not arrive, and Dudeney stated she was going to the station to see about her luggage. She was expecting some new instruments which had not arrived, and so was taking her old ones to be sterilized.

Middleton visited her several times, and had one or two meals with her in the sitting-room and one in her bedroom. The reason Dudeney gave for her return home was that she had had a very trying time for twelve months, and that the doctors considered she needed rest. Asked whether she believed Dudeney's statements, witness replied that she did. She liked her and trusted her in every way.

Inspector Jones said that he called at 10, St. George's Road, on August 14th, where he saw Dudeney, and said, "Nurse Broad, I presume,"

The prisoner, who was not then in nurse's uniform, answered in the affirmative. Witness then said, 'I'm a police inspector, and I am informed you have represented yourself to be a nurse of the Red Cross Association, that you have recently returned from the front owing to your nerves having broken down, and that shortly you are to proceed to the Dardanelles. I have reason to doubt your statement, and I must ask you to accompany me to the Police Station while I make further enquiries.' In the passage, hanging on a peg, were the nurse's bonnet and cloak. Witness said "Is this your property?" and she replied, "Yes." On the way to the Police Station she said "I am not a Red Cross nurse, but three weeks ago I received an appointment with the Great Northern Hospital, London. I have been inoculated, and I am waiting for notice to start my duties." She was detained at the Police Station, and later he cautioned her and read a warrant to her charging her with obtaining food by means of false pretences from Alfred Hearne. She replied "All right. It is all lies I have told. I am not a nurse, I have never been to the front, and I am not going to the Dardanelles. The only nursing I have done is in service as a nurse to children. . . . I bought the bonnet and cloak. I'm glad it's all over."

The witness said he had made enquiries and found that the prisoner was not known either by the Red Cross Society or at the Great Northern Hospital.

Middleton said that he met Dudeney at Lewes. He believed her to be a straightforward, honest girl. After their visit to Frimley he met her and she said she had had a letter from a doctor stating he had put her through as a Red Cross Nurse, she was to go to London and it would cost her £5 5s. The next day she told him she had passed the examination and been inoculated. She was then wearing the uniform of a Red Cross Nurse. She gave him to understand she had money in the bank, that she was drawing 25s. a week from the Red Cross Society and later would be drawing three or four pounds. When he asked Mrs. Watson to take her in at the Royal she said, "I have not a room to let, but if she is a nurse I will do anything I can for her."

The prisoner said that she had no idea it was a crime to wear the nurse's uniform.

Middleton was discharged, and in sentencing Dudeney to six weeks' imprisonment with hard labour the Chairman of the Bench said, "You told a tissue of lies from beginning to end, which deceived every one you came in contact with."

The uniform of the trained nurse has so long been abused with impunity that it is not surprising this woman did not realize the Red Cross uniform could not be used for criminal purposes. These cases demonstrate how easily protection can be extended to uniform, and we hope trained nurses will insist that their honourable uniform, as well as that of the socially influential Red Cross worker, shall be protected from abuse henceforth.

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