

On the questions left open by the jury, we make no comment. But this is certain, that it was the duty of all concerned to speak the truth, that the nurse should immediately have informed the Matron, instead of waiting from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., that the Matron should immediately have acquainted the Medical Officer with the accident, and no desire to shield others should have influenced the doctor to keep the facts from the parents. To the poor mother we offer sincere sympathy.

A case which Judge Harington said raised points of interest and difficulty came before the Godalming County Court on November 5th, when Miss Lilian Kate Russell, nurse, of Croydon, sued Mr. Reginald Hodges, Clerk to the Visiting Committee of the Surrey County Council's Lunatic Asylum at Brookwood, claiming £1 16s. 4d., one month's wages in lieu of notice, and £2 16s. 9d. as repayment of amount contributed to superannuation fund.

The case, it was stated, was of importance not only to plaintiff, but to other nurses dismissed at the same time.

It appeared that a probationary nurse was engaged, and a few days afterwards it was found that her head was verminous. Some patients were infected, and plaintiff and other nurses in the same ward were asked to submit their heads to medical examination. This they declined to do, on the ground that it was insulting to their dignity. On the matter being reported to the Visiting Committee, the nurses were summarily dismissed.

In giving judgment, His Honour said plaintiff had not refused to obey an order to perform any of the duties which were within the contract of employment. Although, from a disciplinary point of view, it was a perfectly reasonable request, it would be going a little too far to hold that the refusal of the plaintiff in the circumstances was a breach of discipline which entitled the Visiting Committee to dismiss her summarily. Her attitude was unfortunate, but as she maintained what he thought to be her legal right, she was entitled to succeed. He gave judgment for the plaintiff for the amount claimed. Leave to appeal was granted.

We are glad the Judge took the Visiting Committee to task for their autocratic proceedings, and think, moreover, that the whole nursing staff had just cause of complaint against the officials who selected the type of probationer likely to be in this disgusting condition. It would be interesting to know what compensation the Visiting Committee were prepared to offer the nurses, had they been infected by this loathsome parasite.

SCOTTISH MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Scottish Matrons' Association was held on Saturday, November 6th, in the Nurses' Memorial to King Edward VII in Chamberlain Road, Edinburgh, Miss Gill, R.R.C., President, in the chair. Forty-two members were present.

After preliminary business, the Hon. Sec. reported that the endowment was now complete for one year of the bed in the Scottish Women's Hospital in Serbia.

The President then spoke of the death of Miss Edith Cavell, and asked the members present to stand in silence, as a mark of sympathy and of deep appreciation of her work and heroism.

It was proposed at the meeting that nurses in Scotland should raise a memorial to Miss Edith Cavell, and after discussion it was agreed to start a fund for the purpose, and to found an annuity in connection with the Scottish Nurses' Memorial to King Edward VII, to enable a nurse to be in residence there who could not otherwise afford it.

The delegates to the Conference of the N.U.W.W., held in London in October, gave short reports of the proceedings.

Two new members were elected, and one resignation was intimated.

After tea, the members had an opportunity of seeing the Home. The next meeting will be held in Glasgow on March 4th, 1916.

MESSAGE FOR THE WOUNDED.

Miss Essex French, Hon. Secretary of the Almeric Paget Massage Corps, the official organization recognized by the War Office for the supply of masseurs and masseuses in military hospitals and camps throughout the kingdom, states that the need for this form of treatment is increasing daily, and large camps are now being opened all over the country, besides those already in existence, where electrical and massage departments are to be a special feature. It is, therefore, necessary to procure the services of a very large number of masseuses, in addition to those already working on the corps, who now amount to about 700.

Applicants should forward their names, addresses, and qualifications as soon as possible to Miss French at 39, Berkeley Square, London, W. The requisite qualifications are: (1) A certificate of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses; or (2) a certificate of a physical training college recognised by the Ling Association; or (3) a certificate of one of the public hospital schools of massage; or (4) a certificate dated prior to January 1st, 1915, of any of the schools of massage approved by the War Office.

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