

The Council also express their appreciation of the manner in which the Committees of the Local Associations have met the many difficulties under which they are labouring, as also the nurses who are, in very many cases, undertaking extra work on the districts, and, at the same time, assisting in small local hospitals and convalescent homes, and in the superintendence of members of Voluntary Aid Detachments where no other trained nurse is available. The nurses who have gone and the nurses who have stayed at home are all, in their several ways, doing real service to their country.

One of the most serious consequences of the war, so far as the Institute's direct work is concerned, is the almost complete cessation in the supply of hospital trained nurses entering for district work. It is hoped that after the war a large number of nurses may be led to take up district work, but, if this is to be so, the conditions of the service must be made sufficiently attractive to compare not unfavourably with other branches of the profession. In the future a minimum clear salary of £35 will be asked by the Institute from affiliated Associations for nurses for the first year, £37 the second, and £40 the third. Where an inclusive salary is given the minimum is to be £100 per annum, with the usual increases.

In many cases Associations are already paying these or higher rates, but it was felt that the above scale must be made the minimum universally. Owing to increased prices the allowances to cover board and laundry are now 15s. a week.

Queen's Nurses are doing such invaluable national work that we are glad to know that this increase has been arranged. We hope the time will come when no Queen's Nurse after her first year will receive less than £50 per annum.

AFFINITY.

The racing wind, the dancing sea,
Exist alike to comfort me!
The rustling wheat, the swaying tree
Each move in hidden harmony
With that diviner, loftier Me
That knoweth why the winds are free,
That feeleth what it cannot see,
That yearneth evermore to be
Absorbed in its own mystery!—
Rememb'ring nought of me and thee
In that immortal ecstasy
That prophesies the Life to Be.

From "Thoughts and Essays and a Few Lyrics," by F. E. Scarborough.

LEGAL MATTERS.

THE KING v. LOUISA DAVIES AND GRACE JENKINS.

A very painful case was tried at the Central Criminal Court, London, on Thursday, July 26th, by Mr. Justice Lawrence, when Louisa Davies pleaded guilty to the charge of using an instrument, or other means, with intent to procure miscarriage, contrary to Section 58 of the Offences against the Person Act, 1861, and Grace Jenkins to being accessory before the fact to the same offence.

We refer to the case (which resulted in the death of Daisy Armstrong, Mrs. Jenkins' married sister) in this Journal because Sir Archibald Bodkin, who conducted the prosecution for the Crown, stated that both prisoners were "nurses in ordinary hospitals, or private nursing." He did not, however, state where they were trained. Later, Counsel for Mrs. Jenkins stated that she came to this country from Canada in November, 1915, and had since worked in hospitals for the British Red Cross, in which capacity she had met and worked with Nurse Davies. Mrs. Jenkins (who is a widow) was accompanied by her sister, Mrs. Armstrong, who also became engaged in war work, in the course of which she met the man who caused her trouble, her husband being with the Canadian Forces in France.

The Judge, who told the prisoners that they had pleaded guilty to a very grave offence, said that they seemed to have fallen into it not from any sordid attempt to get money, but by reason of their affection for one another, and for the deceased woman. He could not, however, let such things go unpunished, and sentenced each of them to be imprisoned in the second division for two calendar months.

There is another aspect of the case, which is how lightly both prisoners seemed to regard their crime until confronted by its terrible consequences; and in the case of Nurse Davies, how readily she advised and used drugs, for purposes for which she had certainly never seen them used in the legitimate treatment of patients, and which she realised it was wrong to use, for she wrote in the letter in which she gave such advice "for mercy's sake burn this." Nor was her judgment obscured by her affection for a near relative, and she should at once have impressed on her colleague, had she been a true friend, that a criminal act was not to be thought of as the solution of her sister's trouble.

Lastly, both women have shown themselves unworthy of professional trust, and for one who has proved herself so lacking in principle, and in all sense of professional honour, to be nursing in private houses is a danger to the sick public. A certified midwife, convicted of a similar offence, would be at once removed from the Midwives' Roll, but there is no Register of Trained Nurses in regard to which similar action can be taken in the case of nurses.

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