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EDITORIAL.

NURSES SAVE YOUR SOULS ALIVE.

Parliament is announced to take the Whitsun holiday from June 6th to 24th.

The Nurses' Registration Bill is down for Report stage for Friday, June 27th, and as the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., has advised its Nurse members to wreck it if possible—the State Registration Party must use every effort in their power in support of their Bill, which, after so many years, promises them the power to organize their profession for the benefit of the public and themselves — free from lay domination as provided in the amendments the College representatives are putting forward, and do not forget, fellow nurses, that to defeat the Employers' Union, financed by charity, collected in *your* name, all your time, all your brains, all your conscience, and all your Soul will be required.

Nurses Save Your Liberties. It is Now or Never.

PATIENTS FIRST.

The adjourned hearing of the case against five probationary nurses at the Bermondsey Infirmary — Misses Florence Couchman, Mabel Bookman, Hilda Lawrence, Mary Martin, and Esther Piercy for assaulting Miss Emily Russell, also a probationer, took place on Saturday, May 24th, before Mr. Gill, at the Tower Bridge Police Court. Each of the defendants was fined 40s. and 10s. costs.

The assault was very aggravated, and there appear to have been no extenuating circumstances. According to the evidence, Miss Russell who was on day duty in March last reported that a patient was suffering from a bed sore, Miss Couchman being on night duty in the same ward. Miss Couchman greatly resented this,

On April 28th Miss Russell was nursing a patient who had undergone an operation on her eyes, and continually changed the dressings. The night nurse on that occasion was Miss Piercy. Miss Russell asked Miss Piercy to continue the dressings but found next morning she had not done so. Apparently and quite properly, in the interest of the patient, Miss Russell reported this fact, and Miss Piercy subsequently said to her "I will give you reporting me," and this was endorsed by Miss Couchman.

The following day the disgraceful incident which formed the subject of the charge took place.

The defendants, according to Miss Russell's statement, rushed into her bedroom, carried her to the bathroom, and ducked her in the bath. Miss Couchman held her head down while Miss Martin lifted up her feet, so that her dressing-gown and nightgown washed back.

At the previous hearing the solicitor to the defendants offered an apology on their behalf which Miss Russell, we think very properly, refused to accept. As the magistrate stated, Miss Russell was subjected to very great indignity, and there was no reason or excuse forthcoming.

It appears that Miss Russell's unpopularity arose from the fact that her performance of her duty; in regard to the patients in her charge, implied laxity on the part of her fellow nurses, and was resented by them. If Miss Russell was aware that a patient was suffering from a bed sore, it was unquestionably her duty to report it to her superior officer,

We may further point out that the standard of nursing in an institution may be judged by the bedsores which occur, as with careful nursing they are non-existent. The Local Government Board might usefully call for a monthly return of all bedsores in institutions under its control.

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