

death due to shock, but in view of the fact of another death he came to the conclusion that death was due to poisoning.

Mr. George Henry Howe, surgeon, who deposed that a post mortem examination showed a malignant growth in the gullet, said that on the inner surfaces of the stomach there were fresh ulcers attributable to the barium. The cause of death was poison, accelerated by the malignant condition of the deceased's organs.

In the second case the Sister deposed that she gave the deceased a preparatory meal at two o'clock, and wished to X-ray him four hours later. He returned about five looking very ill. She X-rayed him and found barium in the stomach, and in view of his condition put him to bed. At this time she thought he had taken a chill, as he had been without food all day for the purposes of the X-ray. He was seen by Dr. J. Lee and Dr. Pritchard. The composition of the meal was suspected, and she was going to take a sample to send to the analyst when she saw that the label on the bottle did not say sulphate.

Mr. George Henry Howes deposed to finding in the stomach, on post mortem examination, what appeared to be barium carb. The cause of death was shock, due to poisoning.

The Jury returned a verdict of death from misadventure.

#### THE SAFETY OF PATIENTS.

Two rules are impressed on nurses during their training—(1) Never to administer a drug to a patient which has not been prescribed by the medical attendant, (2) Always to look at the label on the bottle before giving a dose. These rules are made for the protection and safety of the patients, and the facts above related prove their wisdom and necessity.

It does not appear, further, that the medical staff of the hospital were consulted before it was decided by the dispenser, on the recommendation of the representative of a drug company, to order a substitute for bismuth on the score of cheapness.

In the first case under consideration the Sister stated in evidence that she was directed to give a bismuth meal, she did not notice that the bottle did not bear the label bismuth, but barii carbonas, and added that if she had noticed she would still have used it because she did not know the difference.

The accurate administration of prescribed drugs is often, as in the present instance, a matter of life and death to patients.

It is highly desirable that nurses should have an elementary knowledge of the drugs they are handling, but, whether or not, it is inexcusable when one drug is prescribed to administer another, and the terrible results of so doing in the present instance afford a lesson which we hope all nurses will take to heart.

Dr. Letitia Fairfield has succeeded Miss S. A. Villiers as Chairman of Executive of the League of the Church Militant.

## A GREAT DAY IN U.S.A.

The Proclamation declaring woman suffrage to be established as the 19th amendment of the Federal Constitution was issued on August 26th.

## BOOK OF THE WEEK.

### "BULLDOG DRUMMOND."\*

"Captain Hugh Drummond, D.S.O., M.C., late of His Majesty's Royal Loamshires, was whistling in his morning bath. After a while the whistling ceased, and the musical gurgling escape of water announced that the concert was over. It was the signal for James Denny, the square-jawed ex-batman, to disappear into the back regions, and get from his wife the kidneys and bacon which that excellent woman had grilled to a turn."

But this morning James Denny was preoccupied by the number of letters that awaited his master.

"Forty-five," he said grimly.

He picked up a newspaper lying on a chair, and indicating a paragraph with a square finger, thrust the paper under his wife's nose.

"Them's the result of that," he said cryptically.

"Demobilised officer," she read slowly, "finding peace incredibly tedious, would welcome diversion. Legitimate, if possible, but crime, if of a comparatively humorous description, no objection. Excitement essential.—Reply at once, Box X10."

A moment later Hugh came in. Slightly under six feet, he was broad in proportion. His best friend would not have called him good-looking, but he was the fortunate possessor of a cheerful type of ugliness which inspires immediate confidence for its owner. In fact, to be strictly accurate, only his eyes redeemed his face from being what is known in the vernacular as the "Frozen Limit."

After sorting, with the aid of Denny, the numerous replies, he decided to enter into negotiations with a correspondent who, among other things, said she was "up against it, and for a girl I have bitten off more than I can chew. Will you come to the Carlton to tea to-morrow afternoon? I want to look at you and see if you are genuine."

If the reader has been able in these few lines to get even an inkling of Hugh Drummond's character, it is needless to relate that he kept the appointment punctually. His rhapsodies to James as to the probable pleasing personality of his unknown correspondent were not exaggerated.

Her eyes, he could see, were very, very blue; and she had great masses of golden-brown hair coiled over her ears. He glanced at her feet, being an old stager; she was perfectly shod. It was sufficient to make him bless the moment when, more as a jest than anything else, he had sent his advertisement to the paper.

From that moment onward Hugh is involved in

\* By "Sapper" (Cyril McNeile). (Hodder & Stoughton.)

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)