

thropic and parish worker for thirty years"; he merely fined her 40s. for failing to put the money she had collected, as soon as possible in the proper receptacle, and did not convict her of the charge of fraudulent collection under the Vagrancy Act. He also advised that some kind of better checks should be framed in the matter of these flag collections.

It is an open secret that "Society" bazaars were taboo a few years ago, owing to the thefts of valuable articles by persons of approved "good character," and whom no one ventured to accuse of a criminal offence.

It would appear that Birmingham "charity" is as Brummagen as its jewellery—or surely the urgent financial needs of the District Nursing Society brought to the notice of its wealthy citizens and highly paid artisans would have received more generous support. According to the *Birmingham Post*, so disappointing has been the response that the Committee are compelled to close one of the Homes (94, Moseley Road) on November 1st. The staff of nurses has already been reduced 50 per cent., and in six districts they have been entirely withdrawn; so that after this month, only a small portion of the city itself will have the benefit of the services of a nurse.

The Society will in future adopt the same principle as is being followed in other populous centres and charge a small fee for visits except in the case of very poor patients. But this charge and the curtailment of the work will by no means meet the necessities of the society, which is already hampered by a heavy debt of £3,000.

It seems incredible that this really indispensable work for the sick poor in Birmingham commands so little sympathy from the well-to-do. Well trained district nurses are real handmaidens of health, and the curtailment of their beneficent ministrations is a calamity—which the community will probably realise when too late.

RUN AWAY AND PLAY.

Our gallant and very precious Prince of Wales received a joyous welcome, on his homecoming to London on Monday, and was evidently much gratified thereby. He has done splendidly, and the Homeland is deeply sensible of the fine sense of duty which has resulted in the triumph of his Mission. But for the present he has done enough; he needs and should be given a real rest, free from publicity. We suggest to His Royal Highness—run away and play.

THE REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES.

The employment of a sufficient staff in nursing homes to meet emergencies is an anxious question for Superintendents in these days of housing difficulties and expensive salaries and maintenance. Many prefer to engage extra nurses as required, and herein lies the opportunity of women with antecedents which will not bear inspection, for, in a sudden rush, exhaustive inquiries into a nurse's references are not always made. The safest plan in such circumstances is to secure the services of a nurse on the staff of one of the professionally-managed co-operations of private nurses; for it is not infrequent to hear that women of most undesirable character have gained admission to nursing homes in positions of trust, and victimised both patients and staff. Only last week, a woman who has been recently employed as a nurse in more than one West-End nursing home, was convicted of larceny, on two charges, at the Marylebone Police Court, and sentenced to six months' hard labour on each count, the sentences to run consecutively. "Nurse A. Betts," against whom we are informed there are nine previous convictions is therefore safely incarcerated for twelve months. This woman states that she is "a C.M.B."; but her name does not appear upon the Midwives' Roll. She boasted to the detective concerned in the case that she would get "plenty of employment in Harley Street" when she had served her sentence. By that time we may hope that the State Register of Nurses will be available, and any persons employing "Nurse A. Betts" as a nurse will do so at their own risk.

But the question remains: How is it that a woman who for years has been leading a life of crime has been able to get employment in connection with private nursing institutions and in nursing homes? She stated that she was "trained at Ipswich," but events proved that she is not a trained nurse.

The theft of goods to the value of £50 from one nursing home (all of which have been recovered) is not the most serious aspect of the situation, but that she has been placed in responsible charge of the sick; and proves that women are employed as nurses without sufficient enquiry. The public pay substantial fees for skilled nursing in nursing homes and are entitled to receive it, as well as to be protected from the ministrations of criminals eager to profit by the opportunities open to them by employment in a confidential capacity.

In Victoria, Australia, there is a system of registration of nursing homes by the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, and only such homes as employ Registered Nurses are eligible for registration. It would seem that for the protection of the public, and for the prestige of individual nurses and of the nursing profession at large, the registration of nursing homes in the United Kingdom under a professional authority is also desirable.

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