

ant in the mental ward, the ghostly visitations (accompanied by lowered lights and the ringing of the alarm bells that summon the whole staff to duty) later gave cause for some alarm. 'Such was the state of nerves created among the nurses following the repetition of the story by the nurse who first saw the ghost,' said an official to-night, 'that "seeing ghosts" became an epidemic infection. We tried to laugh the nurses out of their visions, but they persisted, saying that they had seen the spectral night-sister passing by the bedsides of the patients, looking at their temperature charts, and afterwards stealing silently out of the wards and disappearing in the gloom of the gas-lit corridors.' Mr. G. E. Gardner, the head of the institution, when asked about the ghost, said: 'We have found it all right.' At a meeting of the Guardians held on Tuesday certain admissions were made by one of the male nurses, and, these being confirmed, the Board took a serious view of the matter, and he was summarily dismissed.

That delirium tremens is sometimes due to other things beside alcohol—pneumonia, for example—was a doctor's statement at the inquest at Shoreditch on Thomas Cunningham, 43, who was taken to the infirmary when delirious and certified to be suffering from delirium tremens.

An inmate of the ward said he saw the witness Deacon kneeling on top of the deceased while another attendant was kneeling across the patient's legs. A police surgeon said he was suffering from delirium tremens.

Dr. Bronte said the cause of death was heart failure due to early pneumonia. Delirium from pneumonia was similar to that from delirium tremens, and the latter might come on in a person who had never been drunk in his life.

The jury, finding that deceased died from natural causes, said they hoped the inmate who thought undue violence had been used would not get into trouble when he got back into the institution.

Dr. Taylor: He is in my ward. He will be all right.

Dr. Bronte's pronouncement is of the utmost importance, and should be borne in mind by all prison attendants and nurses when delirious patients are shut up in the cells, and from whatever the cause, delirious patients should never be "knelt" upon!

Those of us who were permitted to help

splendid France in the War, and came into personal touch with the devastation caused by her ruthless and barbarous foe, rejoice to know that American nurses are still carrying on their national health work in the devastated regions. The organisation of an up-to-date Training School for Nurses in Paris has been discussed in New York, and we have no doubt will soon be an accomplished fact. This is invaluable help that Britain might well have offered and carried out, as the work of trained British nurses was greatly appreciated by the French Government, although some of our French friends still shudder at the antics of the extraordinary society women who were given passports in London and permitted to pose as "nurses" in France, whilst our certificated nurses were barred, by the British Red Cross Society, from giving their professional services in French hospitals, and passports refused to them for more than a year. All that remains for us to do is to wish God-speed to our American colleagues in their humanitarian devotion to our great Ally across the Channel. Well-educated young French women are *gentil, à l'esprit vif, avec beaucoup de savoir-vivre*; they possess naturally many of the qualities which go to make acceptable attendants on the sick, and we gather that the American idea is to train French women to take control of professional nursing in France.

L'École Florence Nightingale at Bordeaux, the pioneer Nursing School, has proved that systematic training is all that is necessary to place French women on the highest plane of National Health Service, and the name of Anna Hamilton will be for ever revered in this connection.

### A NEW ELEMENT.

Two Danish chemists, Messrs. D. Coster and G. Hevesy, according to the scientific correspondent of the *Times* have discovered a new element, to which they have given the name of Hafnium, after Hafnia (Copenhagen). Their investigations were made by examination of the X-ray spectra of extractions from the rare element zirconium, in some samples of which they infer one per cent. of Hafnium to be present. The method of investigation by X-ray spectra was invented by Moseley, the young British physicist, whose death was one of the greatest losses of the war. By its means he was able to arrange the known elements in an orderly series. The position in this series is known as the atomic number, and evidence appears to prove that the atomic species or elements are limited to 92. Of these numbers, 43, 61, 75, 85, and 87 are still missing.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)