

Recording a verdict of "Natural causes," Mr. Oswald observed that the system under which health visiting was carried out was irregular and might lead to harm. He did not say it had done so in the present instance. . . . It was the principle of intervening in a doctor's case which he did not like. He advised Miss Newhall and other Health Visitors to take heed of his words, otherwise they might get into trouble.

The medical evidence given showed that the baby died from an exceedingly rare intestinal disease.

PITY THE POOR PATIENTS.

Mrs. de Meza, Matron of a Jewish Nursing Home, Chislett Road, West Hampstead, N.W., has been injuncted for breach of contract in keeping a Nursing Home in this residential locality, stated to be an annoyance to neighbours. On the 11th inst, at Marylebone County Court, Miss E. Victoria Dudding, a probationer nurse, 76, Cornwall Road, W., sued Mrs. de Meza for £3 15s. wages in lieu of a month's notice.

Miss Dudding said that while on night duty she was so tired that she fell asleep in a chair at 4 a.m. As a result she was dismissed without notice. She had to be on duty 84 hours a week.

Mrs. De Meza said that Miss Dudding was asked to take special notice of an old woman who was very ill.

The Registrar, Mr. T. M. V. Vaughan-Roderick, giving judgment for Miss Dudding, said that dismissal for falling asleep was a strong measure. Anybody under similar conditions might drop off to sleep. He often did it himself after a hard day's work.

The irrelevant remarks of the Registrar are what we trained nurses are used to when nursing affairs are dealt with in County Courts. Presumably Mr. T. M. V. Vaughan-Roderick would not topple off to sleep in the County Court when on duty, however tired he might be. If he did, doubtless his superior officers would have something to say on the matter.

But there is another point in this case. Presumably Mrs. de Meza was being paid fees by the patient in question for skilled nursing, and not to be entrusted to a sleepy probationer!

And how about working her inexperienced staff for 84 hours a week?

This is the sort of slavery for which the members of the G.N.C. will be held responsible when they recognise Private Nursing Homes as Training Schools, as some of them appear willing to do, if sufficient pressure is brought to bear upon the Council by influential bigwigs. It was largely the recognition of untrained women working in these business places, known to medical patrons, which was responsible for the Dr. Chapple "modification" to place untrained women on the General Part of the Register.

CADBURY BROTHERS, LTD.

PENSIONS FOR EMPLOYEES' WIDOWS.

Messrs. Cadbury Brothers, Ltd., of Bournville, have made arrangements to complete their pension schemes by the formation of a fund for providing pensions for employees' widows. This fund will be started on a contributory basis from December 17th, 1923. In the event of the death of an employee who has attained pension age, his widow will be entitled to a pension equal to one-half of her husband's normal pension. The Fund will be supported by contributions of equal amount made by the Company and by the employees. An employee's contributions to the Widows' Fund will be at the rate of one-third of his normal contributions to the Men's Pension Fund.

The Company has agreed to bear the whole cost of the scheme in respect of periods of service prior to December 17th, 1923. The Actuary estimates this cost at a sum of about £95,000, and the Company has agreed to pay over this sum to the Trustees as a Back Service Gift. The Trustees of the Men's Pension Fund will act also as Trustees of the Widows' Fund.

"CHRISTMAS."

"A boy was born at Bethlehem
That knew the haunts of Galilee,
He wandered on Mount Lebanon,
And learned to love each forest tree.
But I was born at Marlborough,
And love the homely faces there;
And for all other men beside
'Tis little love I have to spare.

My own dear downs, my comrades true,
But that great heart of Bethlehem,
He died for men He never knew."

E. Hilton Young.

O lovely lily clean,
O lily springing green,
O lily bursting white,
Dear lily of delight,
Spring in my heart agen
That I may flower to men.

* * *

The holly bears a berry,
As red as any blood;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
To do poor sinners good.

COMING EVENTS.

December 23rd.—Royal British Nurses' Association Club, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. Entertainment by working members to their colleagues belonging to the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund, the inmates of Princess Christian Settlement Home, and other retired nurses.

December 25th.—Christmas Day.

December 31st.—Nurses' Registration Act, Ireland, 33, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin. Election of Nine Members to represent the Nurses upon the General Nursing Council for Ireland.

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