

LEGAL MATTERS.**Credit by Fraud.**

Annie Tanwell, described as a mental nurse, giving an address in Marylebone Road, W., was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment at Wealdstone Petty Sessions on seven charges of obtaining credit by fraud from garage proprietors and landladies at Harrow, Bushey, and Marylebone.

She gave out that she had a good post with the Middlesex Hospital Research Committee and hired cars to take her to houses where she secured lodgings.

Unlawful Possession of Dangerous Drugs

Audrey Jessamine Brown, until recently the Matron of the Urmston Cottage Hospital, was recently charged at Manchester under the Dangerous Drugs Act, with unlawfully procuring twelve bottles of morphine sulphate, and remanded for a week.

Mr. J. Crofton, who appeared for the Public Prosecutor, said he did not think it would be possible to trace the case through all its ramifications in the time, and a second remand might be necessary. She went to Urmston Cottage Hospital in November, 1925, and had only been there a short time when it was found that she was procuring morphine sulphate and strychnine from wholesale chemists and druggists. As Matron she was in a position to get drugs, and it was alleged she obtained them by forging the prescription of one of the medical men practising at the hospital. By this means she possessed herself of enormous quantities of the drug while at the hospital, which she left during the previous month for a reason unconnected with the charge. The police discovered that she had obtained 1,200 grains of morphine sulphate from one source and 780½ grains from another source. It was impossible for her to have administered anything like the quantity she obtained either to herself or to the inmates of the hospital. She would have poisoned herself, and everybody in the hospital with the amount there was.

When brought from Weymouth, where she was arrested, Detective sergeant Nixon said she was in a state of collapse, and did not appear to understand the charge.

Thefts from Colleagues.

Phyllis Searle, 21, staff nurse, the Northern Hospital, Winchmore Hill, was recently charged at Wood Green Police Court, as reported in the *Enfield Gazette and Observer*, with stealing from a bedroom at the Northern Hospital, Winchmore Hill, between February 26th and March 8th, a pair of lady's corsets valued at 7s., the property of Adela Nora Francis.

She was further charged with stealing from a bedroom at the Hospital, between December 24th and March 8th, a fox fur, valued £4, the property of Ivy Sole. The last-mentioned charge was taken first.

Miss Alice Bryson, Matron of the Northern Hospital, said the defendant had been at the institution since November last as a staff nurse. On March 8th she sent for Nurse Searle, and then, in her company, went to her bedroom. Nurses Sole and Frances went with her. Arrived at the defendant's room, the Matron asked her whether she had a fur, and she replied "Yes." Going to the wardrobe she produced a little brown fur, but Nurse Sole said, "That is not my fur."

Miss Bryson asked the accused whether she had another fur, and to this she replied, "I haven't any other." Witness asked whether she might be allowed to look in her drawer, but she said she hadn't the key, and asked why the Matron wanted to see the drawer, and Miss Bryson replied, "Because we think you have another fur." Nurse Searle refused to comply with the request, and the Matron and nurses then left.

Later Miss Bryson returned to the defendant's room in company with Nurse Francis and the hospital carpenter, who forced the drawer open. Inside was found the stolen fox fur. Thereupon the Matron sent for defendant and said to her: "Now, Nurse, what about this?" She replied "I know. That is Nurse Sole's fur."

Miss Ivy Sole, assistant nurse at the Northern Hospital, told the Court that she put the fur away in a drawer in her bedroom on December 18th. Six days later she missed it, and on March 8th she complained to the Matron, with the result given in the evidence of the former witness.

Witness spoke in tones that were scarcely audible, and Sir Wm. Rice told her to speak loud enough for the defendant to hear. "She's interested in the case," he added.

Miss Searle was cautioned. She pleaded guilty, and elected to be dealt with at that Court.

"I have nothing to say except that I am sorry," said defendant tearfully.

The charge of the theft of the corsets was then proceeded with. Asked by the Matron about the corsets, defendant said "Shall I undress?" "Yes," said the Matron, and when she had partially done so she handed to the Matron a pair of corsets which she admitted belonged to Nurse Francis.

Defendant again pleaded guilty.

Nurse Adela Francis missed the corsets from a drawer in her bedroom seven days after she had placed them there.

Asked if anything was known, Detective-sergeant Bond told the Bench that there were no previous convictions. The girl had resided with her parents at Exmouth, and was at school until the age of 18. She then was a student teacher for a year, but gave it up because she had not a liking for the profession. In 1924 she became a probationer at a Hendon hospital, and in November last was transferred to the Winchmore Hill Hospital. Her monthly salary was £5.

Sir William Rice: And this is her first lapse?

Sergeant Bond: Yes, sir.

Sir William asked the Matron whether she would give Nurse Searle another chance.

Matron: That will depend on the Board.

Sir William: I hope you will help her if you can.

Sir William Rice, addressing defendant, said: We don't want to send you to prison. It would leave a tarnish all your life. You are engaged in a most holy calling in relieving suffering, and you girls who work together ought to be fair and honourable. We shall bind you over in the sum of £10 for one year, and we hope the institution will adopt our view of the case and give you another chance.

Sergeant Bond: I understand from the Matron that the Board have already dismissed the girl.

Sir William: Yes, but in view of what the Bench have done they might take another view.

THE HEALTH OF HOUSES.

Miss Nightingale in her wisdom wrote: "The everyday management of a sick room, let alone of a house—the knowing what are the laws of health for houses (and houses are healthy or unhealthy mainly according to the knowledge or the ignorance of the woman)—are not these matters of sufficient importance and difficulty to require learning by experience and careful inquiry, just as much as any other art?"

Again she wrote: "I would say to all young ladies who are called to any particular vocation, qualify yourselves for it as a man does for his work. Don't think you can understand it otherwise. Submit yourselves to the rules of business as men do, by which alone you can make God's business succeed, for He has never said that He will give His success to sketchy and unfinished work."

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