

but there were extenuating circumstances. Mr. Harvey told the Council that he advised Mrs. Dallas it was her duty to come forward and tell the truth, which she did. She could not have been compelled to give evidence in support of Mr. Moon's intervention. If she had consulted her own interests she would have been silent, but she made a clean breast of it.

Mr. Harvey said that Mrs. Dallas had suffered, and she had had to leave Fitzroy House at once.

He respectfully submitted to the General Nursing Council that as they had power to suspend they should temper justice with mercy, and not proceed to the extreme measure of removing his client's name from the Register.

He placed before the Council a number of testimonials on behalf of Mrs. Dallas, and said that the Matron of Fitzroy House gave her "the best of the lot" and wrote to her that she did wish she had her back again.

This concluded the case for Mrs. Dallas, who then withdrew with her solicitor, as did the Press, while the Council deliberated in private.

#### The Council's Decision.

When she was summoned again to the Council Chamber the Chairman informed Mrs. Dallas that the Council had listened with careful attention to the eloquent appeal of her counsel, but that they had decided to remove her name from the Register.

Mrs. Dallas enquired whether she could apply for reinstatement.

The Chairman replied not now. Later on she could do so, but it did not follow that her application would be granted.

We are officially informed that the following Resolutions were passed by the Council:—

- (1) That the charge of misconduct brought against Mrs. Isabella Allan Dallas, S.R.N. 4336r, is proved.
- (2) That the name of Mrs. Isabella Allan Dallas, S.R.N. 4336r, be removed from the Register.

#### AN UNWISE PROFESSIONAL POLICY.

We note the G.N.C. reports that 1,841 registered nurses have failed to pay their retention fees so that their names have been removed from the 1930 issue of the Register of Nurses. It would be interesting to know how many of these nurses have failed to do so in protest of association with thieves retained on the Register by the G.N.C.

Such a policy is unwise, but we have heard more than one nurse threaten to dissociate herself from the Register in disgust.

#### POINTS TO NOTE AND REMEMBER.

On page 45 we print the Attendances of Members of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales at Council and Committee meetings during the past year. We advise Registered Nurses to study this. They will then be able to appreciate which of their elected colleagues have been assiduous in attending to their obligations, and which have taken these lightly, and bear this in mind when next election time comes round.

We note that, during the eight years that the Register of Nurses has been published, only two Nurses for Mental Defectives have obtained admission to the Register by Examination.

#### LEGAL MATTERS.

The following disgraceful incident in which three nurses whose names are on the Supplementary part of the State Register for Fever Nurses are concerned appeared in the *Evening Standard* of January 8th, under the headings: "Four girls spend a week in gaol," "Bride and a clever nurse in West End Bravado":—

A case of West End shoplifting, which the magistrate (Mr. Dummett) called "a tragedy of four young girls with bright

prospects in life," formed a remarkable story at Marlborough-street Police Court to-day.

The girls included a bride about to go abroad to her husband, and a nurse said to have won the highest distinction in her profession.

The four girls, who pleaded guilty, were Freda Roberts (24), housekeeper in a hospital, Edith Hunter (23), nurse, Roma Roberts (21), nurse, all giving addresses at St. Edward's-road, Gosport, Hants, and Vera Ward (22), nurse at a Stockwell hospital. They were charged on remand with stealing from West End stores.

#### MET TO "CELEBRATE."

For the defence Mr. C. P. Grobel said it was not the case of a gang of desperate women descending on London to raid the stores.

The case was a fine distinction between an evil and mischievous mind. Freda Roberts was shortly going abroad, and the quartet met in London to celebrate her departure.

Between them they drank a bottle of port in the afternoon, after which they found their way to Oxford-street and visited the four shops.

There was no conspiracy; the thefts were made more out of bravado.

#### HOSPITAL BARRED TO HER.

Hunter, Roma Roberts and Ward were hospital nurses in London. Hunter recently gained the highest distinction in nursing in the whole of England and Wales. Therefore she had had the severest punishment of all. The hospital was barred to her in future.

The other Roberts lived at home. Her father was prepared to take care of her. Freda Roberts, her sister, had been married only three weeks. She was due to go abroad in a month's time. Her offence had been a shock to her husband, who was going to overlook it.

Addressing the young women, Mr. Dummett said:—

"I sit here and have women before me day after day for shoplifting. The position is getting serious. I very much regret the sad result this will have on your professional careers, and I hope it may be remedied in the future. You have had during the week in prison on remand sufficient punishment for you to have learnt a lesson which should last you for life."

The magistrate discharged them under the Probation of Offenders Act.

We give the *Evening Standard* report of this case with the names as printed therein, but upon applying to the office of the General Nursing Council to verify them, we were officially informed that Edith Hunter should be Edith Alice Hunt; Roma Roberts should be Roma Pauline Roberts; and Vera Ward, Lilian Vera Ward.

#### NURSING IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

##### NURSES' REGISTRATION ACT.

In the House of Commons on January 23rd, Dr. Morris-Jones asked the Minister of Health whether he intends to bring forward legislation to amend the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919.

The Minister of Health (Mr. Arthur Greenwood) replied, "No, Sir."

Dr. Morris-Jones: "Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that very considerable dissatisfaction has been expressed by representative organisations with recent decisions of the General Nursing Council under this Act?"

Mr. Greenwood: "I dare say there is a certain amount of dissatisfaction, but there are so many more pressing subjects for legislation."

Dr. Morris-Jones: "Will the right hon. Gentleman take steps to call the attention of the General Nursing Council to their duties and to this Act?"

Mr. Greenwood: "I must assume that the General Nursing Council is familiar with the Act."

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