

acid instilled into her eyes within ten minutes of her birth was revealed at the Liverpool Assizes on June 21st, when the child, through her father, claimed damages from the Birkenhead Corporation, the Medical Superintendent of the infirmary (Dr. R. A. Grant), and the nurse concerned.

After a consultation in Mr. Justice Atkinson's room it was announced that the case had been settled.

Counsel for the plaintiff (Mr. Noel B. Goldie, K.C., M.P.) withdrew all allegations against the Corporation and Dr. Grant, saying that the terrible accident was in no way due to any breach of duty by the doctor.

The corporation would send the child to one of the Sunshine Homes for Blind Babies to be educated and trained for a profession. In the event of her being unable to obtain employment the Corporation would pay her the maximum amount under the Blind Persons' Act, without any obligation upon any relatives to contribute.

Mr. Justice Atkinson said that a very unfortunate slip by the nurse had led to these terrible consequences. He expected everybody was as sorry for the nurse as for the child. The settlement was a happy ending to a very sad case.

The leniency with which the law frequently treats nurses who through carelessness injure hospital patients cannot be defended. Such negligence as that related above is not a "slip" and should be punished to mark its gravity. Would this child if she could speak say that she was as sorry for the nurse as for herself? Would she not rather say "Much better death than life-long blindness"?

Other questions arise. "What was the qualification of the nurse entrusted with the administration of the drug for which nitric acid was substituted? Was she a registered nurse, or a pupil in training, and if so, who was in responsible charge of this deadly drug, and how came it that it was kept where it was possible to mistake it for one used for instillation into a baby's eyes?" It should surely have been in a poison cupboard under lock and key.

These are points upon which the Birkenhead Corporation should satisfy itself.

From *The A.N.A. Bulletin* we note that High School graduation is now required of all applicants for registration to practice professional nursing in Colorado. . . . Helen Hall, for ten years director of the University Settlement House in Philadelphia, will on August 1st succeed Lillian D. Wald as head of the Henry Street Settlement, New York. Miss Wald, almost recovered from her recent illness, becomes president of the Settlement.

America's pioneer nurses are represented in a display of mementos at the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago. These mementos are in carefully guarded showcases in the National Council of Women's booth in the Hall of Social Sciences. Among them are the nursing school pin awarded Linda Richards, the first graduate nurse from the New England Hospital for Women and Children; a whale oil lamp carried by early nurses at Massachusetts General Hospital; a doll dressed as the first public health nurse in Worcester,

Mass. (1897); the Red Cross flag that flew over Anna C. Maxwell's tent at Chickamauga, Georgia, and Etretat, France, from Presbyterian Hospital, New York, and a portrait of Lillian D. Wald in 1895.

Formal acceptance of the completed Memorial to Jane A. Delano and the 296 nurses who died in service took place in Washington, D.C., on May 29th, when three members of the Delano Committee residing in that city met the sculptor, Dr. R. Tait McKenzie. Clara D. Noyes, Major Julia C. Stimson and Georgia M. Nevins represented the committee in receiving the statue. Following the acceptance, an informal reception was held at which representatives of the Red Cross, Army, Navy, U.S. Public Health Service, Veterans' Administration and a few others were present. Among them was Sylveen Nye, one of Miss Delano's oldest friends, who happened to be in Washington. Formal dedication of the monument will take place at the Biennial.

The question as to who is responsible for the nursing of patients in a Nursing Home should the efficiency of the nursing methods applied be questioned in the light of after-results, is one upon which no definite legal ruling has been given. Two points in our view are clear, the first being that a patient has a legitimate cause for complaint if, having entered a home for skilled nursing care, and paying fees to ensure this, he finds later that he has been nursed by unregistered nurses; and the second is that a medical practitioner places himself in a very equivocal position if, in addition to being the physician or surgeon in charge of the patient, he is also proprietor, or has a financial interest in the Home where the patient is being nursed. Medical practitioners are well advised if they keep absolutely free of financial interest in the Homes to which they send their patients.

Following the Congress of the International Council of Nurses in Paris and Brussels, a group of American nurses will make a pilgrimage to the American Nurses' Memorial in Bordeaux. Each state has been asked by Miss Clara D. Noyes (Chairman of the A.N.A. advisory committee of the school), to appoint an official representative to visit the school and bring back a report to the districts. Bordeaux is a nine-hour train journey from Paris. Official State representatives will be overnight guests of the school, where they will have a warm welcome from Dr. Anna Hamilton, whose lifework has built up the Florence Nightingale School at Bordeaux. It is good news that Dr. Hamilton is to be at the I.C.N. Congress in Paris. Other American nurses will find accommodation in hotels. The official tour will be on July 21st and 22nd.

The nurses of the Italian Red Cross have acquired a rest home at Fiesole, above Florence. The house, with its flowered terrace and pergola, is situated in a sheltered spot on the hillside and commands a magnificent view. The Queen, the Princess of Piedmont, and the Duchess of Aosta each contributed a "stone" to the edifice, which is the fruit of four years of patient effort and self-sacrifice on the part of the nurses and their well-wishers.

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