

claim she was illiterate because the testimonials she had written showed she was an educated person and quite qualified to know better.

Surely when appointing a Matron the authorities of hospitals should enquire into the credentials of applicants, and verify them.

Miss Ethel Dora Hayes was trained at King's College Hospital, London, and is a Registered Nurse.

### COMING EVENTS CAST THEIR SHADOWS BEFORE.

The *Evening Standard* recently reported the following cases:—

#### Women Pose as Registered Nurses.

Two women were summoned to-day for falsely representing themselves as State Registered Nurses.

Of one, Pauline Furness, Roseberry Road, Muswell Hill, said to be superintendent of a V.A.D. post, and highly thought of by her commandant, Mr. L. C. A. Duberry, the Tottenham magistrate, said:—

"You have had so much experience in the last war and since that I can understand why you have not registered.

You could be of great service to the State now."

He dismissed the case under the Probation of Offenders' Act on the payment of £5 5s. costs.

A fine of £2, with £3 3s. costs, was imposed at Bromley, Kent, on Mrs. Edith Elliott, of Poverest Road, Orpington.

It was stated that she had been in charge of a ward at Orpington war emergency hospital and that her misrepresentation came to light when she wrote to Miss Horsbrugh, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, complaining that she had not received a certain increase in salary.

It is to be regretted that a magistrate should know so little of the law relating to the Nursing Profession as to commend the conduct of a woman claiming to be registered, when presumably she was not qualified to assume professional status under the Nurses' Registration Act.

A woman guilty of such an offence is, in our opinion, totally unfitted to hold a position of responsibility as superintendent of a V.A.D. post. It is to be hoped the British Red Cross and the G.N.C. will make this clear to Pauline Furness.

#### CAUSE OF INFLUENZA.

A claim is made (says a Reuter message from Capetown) to have isolated what is believed to be a causative organism of influenza.

This result has been achieved by the Institute of Medical Research in Capetown, Dr. E. H. Cluver, Director of the South African Medical Research Bureau, announced recently. The research was undertaken at the request of the Defence Department "in view of the possibility of a repetition of the scourge which swept the world in 1918."

Dr. Cluver said that many claims had been made in the past that the influenza epidemic germ had been discovered, but they were found to be unjustified. "But, he added, "we are absolutely certain that we have isolated the right germ. We hope the vaccine which we shall soon prepare will be wholly successful."

#### LEGACIES FOR NURSES.

Mr. Ernest Grimshaw, of Saffron Walden, who died worth £39,414, has left £1,000 to Nurse Laurel Woolly.

## WORK AMONGST THE HARD OF HEARING.

### THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECT.

By Miss M. EGGLETON, *Organising Teacher, N.Z. League for the Hard of Hearing.*

Knowledge of the existence of a League for the Hard of Hearing is rapidly spreading throughout New Zealand, but just how it aims at lightening the burden of those who are hard of hearing, or deafened, is not so widely known. The information given here, will it is hoped, be of assistance to members of the nursing profession, who in the course of their work meet many people so afflicted and who would be grateful for any help and advice.

Amongst the student members of the league are adults who have become hard of hearing, or totally deafened, after acquiring normal speech connection, and the aim of the league is to encourage these people to live normal lives and enjoy normal happiness. Tuition is given in lip-reading, hearing is tested by an audiometer, and advice given regarding the choice of a hearing aid. Since the League has acquired two types of group hearing aids—one for use in the rooms and the other a portable set—members have been able to enjoy a still wider field of social activity. Only those who have been cut off from concerts, plays, meetings, lectures, church, etc., because of inability to hear, can appreciate to the full extent the joy of being able to join in once more with normal recreation and entertainment.

The group hearing aid used in the rooms enables up to 50 people to use earphones at the same time, individual volume control being available for each user. The microphone is placed near the lecturer, singer or source of music and through it the sound is conveyed to the amplifier and the earphones. The apparatus is electrically controlled by means of a wall plug. The portable set is a similar type, but of such a size that it can be packed compactly and carried to outside places of entertainment. It has only 24 earphones.

The audiometer will record on a chart in decibel measure the amount of hearing lost in each ear both by air conduction and bone conduction. This data is of great value in determining the type of hearing aid best suited to the individual. Tests can be made for loss of hearing over a comprehensive range of tones well above and below ordinary speech varieties.

Many people think they are "not deaf enough" to learn lip-reading, but this is a mistaken idea. When one notices that conversation is not being heard without a strain then is the time to begin the study, for with its help, strain is avoided and retiring habits are not formed.

Loss of hearing presents a psychological problem and has to be considered from that aspect. It has been said that it is better to be blind than deaf and that, generally speaking, blind people are very much happier than deaf people. To some extent, this may be true. The blind and deaf are both likely to be miserably unhappy until adjustment is made in their changed world; but in the case of the blind the adjustment is more often a quicker process. Sense of touch comes to their aid, almost automatically and can be developed to a remarkable degree. Also, the blind do not lose

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)