

JURISPRUDENCE FOR NURSES

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A PART from those rules and regulations obtaining in connection with the Statutes of the T.N.A.I., which statutes really bear on matters pertaining to the Organization rather than to the nurse herself and the practice of her profession are there any statutes for the guidance and protection of nurses incorporated in India's Legal codes? I think not. There should be. One recalls the Somera case in the Phillipines two years ago, which case could not but have impressed every nurse with the awful jeopardy in which any nurse might at some time or other find herself faced. The only statutes of that country that at that time could be brought to bear on the case made it necessary to impose a very drastic penalty, which could not be annulled even by the Governor-General, but was, however, reduced to conditional pardon.

Nurses in India, as elsewhere, are often called upon to give evidence, witness wills, administer rites in emergency, in the absence of a priest, etc. It would be well if the position of nurses and the practice of the profession were investigated and a comprehensive code evolved. The very splendid series of articles on Jurisprudence for Nurses prepared by Dr. Carl Scheffel, Ph.D., LL.B., of Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A., and running concurrently in the *Trained Nurse and Hospital Review* provide food for thought, as well as a fairly liberal education in that particular field of Jurisprudence.

The following clipping from the *Calcutta Statesman* has to do with an interesting case in which a man who was said to have died in 1909, reappeared to his relatives, first in 1921 claiming to have found himself alive in the company of a group of Naga sannyasis. This individual or his reincarnation, as the case may be, is now claiming his share of the estate, and a case is progressing to establish his identity.

Nurse's Evidence

Dacca, April 26.

Mrs. Jagat Mohini Chakravarty, a midwife, was examined on behalf of the defendant in what is known as the Bhowal declaratory suit.

She said that, about twenty years ago, she was the town nurse and midwife of the Darjeeling Municipality and was attached to the Victoria Memorial Hospital. She knew Kumar Ramendra Narayan Roy of Bhowal, who died at Darjeeling. On the day of his death Col. Calvert called the witness and another nurse to attend on the Kumar. On their arrival at "Stepaside" she found the wife of the Kumar sitting on the bed of her husband and gently rubbing his hands and feet. Col. Calvert stayed in the room for about half-an-hour after the death of the Kumar. The witness and the other nurse were with the Rani in the room for the rest of the night.

On the following morning the remains of the Kumar were taken to the cremation ground. She witnessed the cremation.