

GOSSIP AND RANDOM SHOTS

Talking of soothing mixtures, reminds me of the sad death of a young nurse at the Infirmary recently, who is said to have injected morphia, into her arm for sleeplessness. No inquest was held, and the public have therefore no opportunity of knowing the details. I suppose the friends of the young woman are satisfied with the doctors' account of her death, but from all I hear, outsiders are by no means satisfied. It may be unpleasant to the medical gentlemen to have an inquest at the Infirmary, but in an institution of a public character, enquiry should be courted than otherwise. I have no hesitation in saying that hushing up this matter will do more harm than good, and it is a question whether the attention of the Home Secretary ought not to be called to it.

Here is a case of a young woman aged only 23, who takes morphia for alleged sleeplessness. Was she in the habit of taking it? What was the reason of her nervous system being in so deranged a condition as to require the drug in question? These and other questions might very properly have been asked at an inquest. An infant dies rather suddenly from bronchitis, and the medical man, whoever he may be, is very, very careful not to sign a certificate, but the coroner must be communicate with, and an inquest held, when there is no necessity. Dozens of such cases occur. The jurymen are not paid for their services, but the medical men are. In my humble opinion there ought to have been an inquest on the body of nurse MCMILLAN. I suppose the authorities will be very wroth at my audacity, but to say the least, it is not a satisfactory matter, and all connected with a public institution like the Isle of Wight Infirmary, should be above the slightest taint of suspicion.

A Southampton Centemporary observes:-

"Coroners are vested with great discretion, and it is not often that a newspaper cares to call it into question. A case at Ryde, however, seems to demand some explanation. A nurse in the Isle of Wight Infirmary died from an overdose of morphia. There can be little, if any doubt that the deadly drug was injected by the victim herself, but this is a matter that can only be satisfactorily and authoriatively decided by a jury. Although there may be no suspicious circumstances the case appears to be one for investigation by a jury, and the omission to hold an enquiry into such a death is a dangerous precedent that should not be established."
