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*The Ugly Sister.*

"RISE IN DEATH RATE MAY LET PEOPLE RETIRE EARLIER", Daily Telegraph  
14th November 2015.

How was this "good" result achieved? By bad nursing, as described by Julie Bailey, who fought against it in Stafford. It is extremely unpleasant for the patients. "Not a day goes by without my wanting to die" is a common, misguided reaction. Terminally ill patients don't really want to die immediately, they just want better treatment. When they get it, the death-wish fades away, as Hospice doctors report.

The skeleton argument of the Attorney General in the Kenward case against the Director of Public Prosecutions seems to be based on the assumption that early death is universally desired, and this wish must be accommodated. Since the Purdy judgment in the House of Lords, which was a watershed, legal decisions need not be based on points of law, but on an assessment of what the law should be. On this basis the Kenwards' case may fail.

Dame Cicely Saunders, founder of the Hospice movement, said when the modern euthanasia campaign started that the "Right to Die" brings a "Duty to Die" with it. This is not acknowledged very often, and judges have no notion of it, but it is the right-to-die movement's secret Ugly Sister. Decisions about the care of the elderly are increasingly based on it. The Mental Capacity Act facilitates euthanasia.

Before it was passed, so-called "Forums" were organised by the Departments concerned for so-called "stakeholders" to give their views. At one of these I said "I don't like Euthanasia because I don't want to be bumped off when I get to be a nuisance". "Don't be a nuisance, then!" was the sharp reply.

The Attorney General and others have misread the public mood, which was better interpreted by Members of Parliament speaking against the "Assisted Dying" Bill on September 11th 2015, influenced by letters from constituents. The Bill was soundly defeated. Why? Because of the Ugly Sister. The law against killing helpless people does have emotional public support when the facts are explained.

*EC-B*  
*15<sup>th</sup> November 2015*