

I REGRET to hear that Miss Agnes Grace Cripps has been compelled, through ill-health, to resign the appointment of Sister, which she has held for upwards of four years, at the Royal Naval Hospital, Plymouth. She was one of the first four ladies who were appointed by the Admiralty in October, 1884, to re-model the Nursing system in that Hospital. She is much regretted, both by her fellow-workers and all others with whom she came in contact; her bright face, genial manner, and clever Nursing having been thoroughly appreciated by our "Blue-jackets."

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A VALUED correspondent sends me the following "notes for your column of Echoes." "Christmas in the Colonies is often kept up in the 'old-fashioned way' more loyally than in England. Everyone has some old custom to follow, laden with memories of former times and the 'old folks at home.' In the Kimberley Hospital the liberality of many friends makes Christmas Day a time of festivity, which is repeated at the New Year; and plum puddings, turkeys, geese, bottles of pale ale and cigars are as much enjoyed under the burning sun as they possibly could be in the midst of frost and snow. This year the Nurses formed themselves into a band of carol singers, and their music was much admired by their patients. Early in the New Year the Medical Staff and the Acting Matron arranged for a general entertainment. A gigantic Christmas-tree, laden with presents, was put up in the Convalescent Ward. The early darkness of these latitudes was favourable for its beauty, but the intense heat of the large Ward, packed with cots, stretchers, easy chairs, and every contrivance for holding a patient, besides the large party of Nurses and servants, was something quite indescribable."

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"As soon as the tree had been stripped of its beautiful fruit the company adjourned to a large marquee in the grounds, where Dr. Callender, as Father Christmas, received his guests. The Kaffirs and Zulus rapturously applauded their first Punch and Judy show, intensely enjoying the sight of an absurd white man, who tyrannised over his wife and threw his baby about. The tables were turned, however, when Dr. Croghan showed his most amusing negro marionettes, and while the European patients found them exceedingly funny, the blacks said it was a shame to 'take them off.'"

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"BUT all were alike in admiring the clever conjuring and applauding the songs. It was a delightful evening, to be talked over many times in the year, by those who took part in it, in far distant lands—in the homes of Cornish, Austrian, and Russian

miners; by lonely watch-fires in the African deserts; by parties from the far north, encamping on the banks of the Zambesi; in chiefs' kraals; and in English homes, with an echo of Christmas carols running through our talk of the fun and laughter. And although this year is sure to scatter us far and wide through the earth, next Christmas we shall meet again in heart as, 'so near and yet so far,' we again gather round the manger-bed of the Babe of Bethlehem."

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THE discussion in the *Jewish Chronicle* about the employment of Jewish Nurses still continues. To people who know as little of Nursing as Nursing knows of them, it may appear a very easy subject to settle off-hand, but, as a matter of fact, it bristles with difficulties. The community want Nurses not only to tend their sick, but also to perform the last offices required by law and custom for their dead. Now, there is no doubt that this entails duties which, to some, it may seem a waste of strength to employ highly-trained workers to carry out. I cannot see it. Jews treat not only their living relations but their dead with far higher consideration than the majority of Christians do. And, therefore, if these rites have to be performed at all, surely the more skilfully, tenderly, and reverentially they are executed the better it must be. In fact, I wonder how such a sensitive race have for so long tolerated their present class of watchers. The only practical suggestion which I have observed so far is that a committee should be appointed to consider the question, and recommend what action should be taken. Correspondence might go on for ever without advancing in the slightest the solution of the many difficulties surrounding the matter.

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I AM glad to hear that Miss De Pledge has been appointed Night Superintendent at the Chelsea Infirmary. Miss De Pledge was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and after the completion of the three years' course, worked for some time in the Private Nurses' Home. It is a good augury for the future, and the great improvements which are necessary in the Nursing of Poor-Law Infirmarys, to find so many gentlewomen devoting themselves to the monotonous routine of the work in these Institutions. S. G.

THE *Nursing Record* has initiated a scheme for providing temporary or permanent aid for Trained Nurses who may be in need thereof. This excellent journal has every week information of interest to the class—Hospital Nurses—to which it is devoted.—*The Charity Record*.

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