

at the London Hospital. I hear that Mr. Harrison Cripps has resigned his appointment at St. Bartholomew's as Lecturer to the Probationers, and has been succeeded by Mr. Walsham.

I SECURED the following from the columns of the *British and Colonial Druggist*. To satirise a trite and well-known saying, they appear to manage things much better in China than in this country, judging from their prescriptions, if this is a fair specimen. "Dr. Cho Ping was summoned to the bedside of one of his patients who had swallowed an overdose of opium. First the doctor sat feeling the man's pulse for a couple of hours; he then wrote out the following recipe, which took half a day to make up:—' 2 couples of salted lizards (2 male and 2 female); $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of Korea ginseng root; 6 dried grasshoppers (3 male and 3 female); 1oz. of sweet potato stalks; 1oz. walnuts; $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. lotus leaves; $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. tail of rattlesnake; 2ozs. black dates; $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. elm tree bark; $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. devil-fish claw; $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. hartshorn; $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. birds' claws; $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. dried ginger; $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. old coffin nails. The whole to be mixed with two quarts of water, and boiled down to one-half the quantity. Then let the patient drink the mixture as quickly as possible." I should like to have seen the dispenser; he must be a gentleman whose acquaintance it would be worth while cultivating.

S. G.

WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

CHRISTMAS CARD PAINTING.

THE shops are already bright with Christmas gifts and, above all, Christmas cards. How very different are the gems of art which these words conjure up before the mind's vision, to those badly drawn, inartistic pieces of cardboard for which, twenty years ago, people willingly gave a high price. During the last score of years Christmas card designing and painting has become quite an industry amongst us. Many ladies have found often congenial employment in this delicate and interesting occupation. It is primarily necessary to really know the art professed, for amateurish work is of no avail. The complaint that so many apply who are really incompetent speaks for itself. When will women learn that, to succeed, it is necessary to be thorough in whatever they undertake? Choose a pursuit, whatever it be—best that to which the mind most naturally bends—then master it. To know one thing well is better than to know a hundred indifferently. This is true concerning our hobbies—and everybody ought to have a hobby—but infinitely more so is this the case when we come to seek to turn those hobbies into £ s. d. Messrs. Raphael

Tuck and Sons are among the largest employers of ladies for Christmas card painting. This is partly due to the fact that one of their greatest specialities is hand-painted cards. No work is given out to ladies at home, but about forty are employed in their spacious work-rooms, where, hidden from the eye of the public, fairy fingers use for our gratification their magic power to send forth a dazzling choice of beautiful fancies, adding, oftentimes also, for us, in melodious verse, the good wishes we desire to send to many an old friend at Christmastide. Miss Helen Burnside is the editress of the poetic words, which are often from the pens of well-known writers. The salaries average from about thirty shillings to four pounds a-week, according to the ability of the artist, designers being, of course, better paid than those who can only colour. I mention the following as being the most artistic designs of this firm's productions this year. The "Mizpah" is a religious series of six cards, with suitable texts and verses for Christmas. The "Rainbow Gold" cards are quaint and in excellent taste. The beautiful porcelain studies of heads, &c., are very charming, and much admired by gentlemen. The new Landseer panels are perfect, and the Nativity and Madonna Sistina panels are specimens of high art, and worthy of the praise Her Majesty is said to have accorded them. With regard to their booklets, the "Jackdaw of Rheims" has illustrations in sepia, which are charmingly quaint, especially the last, in which the jackdaw is seen as St. Jim Crow in a decorated church window. The lady designers of these cards and booklets are to be congratulated on their work.

MESSRS. MARCUS WARD AND Co. are not large employers of ladies, and "do not employ any on the premises or at a regular wage." They purchase a considerable proportion of their original designs from lady artists, but "have no regular scale of payment, the rate depending very much on the quality of the work and the position of the artist." This old established firm still continues to keep its reputation as the foremost in London for Christmas cards, spite of the many newer rivals which have arisen to share popular favour. One of their designs is "Raise the Hat," a clever drawing of a gentleman's silk hat, which lifts up and shows a bunch of pretty violets beneath. This is novel in design and amusing without vulgarity, as are also the copy of a boy's straw hat with a butterfly beneath, and one of an ivy-leaf with the inscription "Turn over the leaf." Then there are some charming folding cards with views of the sea-shore, and one, splendidly designed and coloured, of the Adoration of the Wise Men. Some delicately etched views, framed in real oak

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