

not obtain sufficient marks to qualify them for mention.

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THE winner of the fifteenth competition (subject, "The best and most graphic story suitable for Christmas-time, to be based upon actual facts, or to contain records of personal experiences in connection with Nursing or Hospital work") is Miss E. T. Knight, 123, New Bond Street, London, W., for her essay, "How I Spent One Christmas Day." This lady has my most sincere congratulations, particularly as a large number of competitors sent in their efforts, all of them good. The second place of honour has been awarded to Miss Helen Foggo Thomson's essay, entitled "This Time Last Year"; and the third place to Miss Margaret Hunt, whose contribution is "Six Christmas Days of my Life"; whilst honourable mention is given to Miss Isabelle Christie, Miss H. Winter, M.B.N.A., and Miss Helen Bennett, M.B.N.A. A book, to be selected by the winner herself, of the value of one guinea, will be forwarded to Miss Knight; and Mr. Editor informs me that he hopes to be able to find space for, if possible, the whole of the six "Essays."

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I AM glad to notice a striking growth of the number of competitors in these Prize Essay Competitions, and I cannot too highly recommend them. All cannot prove winners, but the practice alone of writing is useful; and this reminds me of a fact which was recently brought to my notice, bearing out my remarks from time to time respecting the importance of these competitions. It was this:—A lady, whose name I am not allowed to mention here, was a candidate for a post in a well-known Institution. The post requiring a special knowledge of a special subject, the lady was asked what qualification she had in that respect for the appointment. She showed the committee before whom she was asked to appear a copy of the *Nursing Record*, containing her essay, which had won the prize. The chairman of the committee read it through, and remarked that anybody who possessed such knowledge, as was evidenced in the essay, "was fully competent to take up the special work required from her," and she was, therefore, elected out of, I believe, seventy-two applicants. The successful candidate herself wrote at once to Mr. Editor, giving the facts I have mentioned; but her letter being marked private, this is all the information I can get out of that somewhat careful gentleman, and I therefore, on the strength of this, tell my Nursing sisters not to overlook any opportunities, which may lie in their path, likely to benefit or improve them in any way.

IN the new year two Prize Essay Competitions will be announced at the same time, as many of the subscribers and readers of the *Nursing Record* on the Continent and abroad have expressed a wish to be allowed to be able to take part in them, and this new arrangement will, therefore, meet their views. It is astonishing to me how far-reaching the *Record* is becoming in its circulation. To-day only I am informed by the publishers that orders have been received for bound volumes, Nos. I. and II., all the way from New South Wales, and I am constantly receiving letters from all quarters of the globe regarding it. One lady in Central Africa writes:—"I do like the *Nursing Record* so, for it hits hard, but, at the same time, fairly, and is not above receiving suggestions. It is, to my mind, exactly what a journal should be—plucky, dealing with Nursing and women's matters alone, and not too cumbrous, and, above all, its information can be relied upon." These are words which I, though only a humble member of the staff, duly and gratefully appreciate. I like people not to be above expressing their admiration if they feel it, just in the same spirit which I am sure the *Record* invites the candid, open, free, and unbiassed criticism of those who may choose to differ with its policy. I think I have said enough on the subject.

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I DEEPLY regret to hear of the death of Mrs. Mary Oriell Higginbotham, who has done such great work in Glasgow and the west of Scotland. The Glasgow Sick Poor and Private Nursing Association was founded by her, and proved to be an almost invaluable institution, practically revolutionising some of the social conditions of the poor of that city. She will be greatly missed, and many—all to their honour—as we may have in the United Kingdom of such noble, self-sacrificing women, it will be difficult indeed to replace such a loss as the kind the poor of Glasgow have now to contend with.

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THE annual sale of work for the benefit of the Reading Helena Nursing Home, of which "our Princess" is the patroness, took place recently, and was, like all well-managed affairs of this kind, a considerable success, thanks to the efforts of Mrs. D. M. Gardner, Mrs. Hy. Collins, the Misses Collins, Mrs. Young, Miss Smith, Miss Simonds, Miss Spens, Miss Morris, Miss Wright, the Misses Bedford, and Miss Margaret Vincent. If anyone reading this should have a cottage piano to give away (I know Nurses, as a rule, don't carry such things about with them), I can assure such it will be well appreciated and well played at this Home. I wonder if the jolly, stout, benevolent, always-on-the-look-out-to-see-what-he-can-do old gentle-

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