

defects of temper, are no exception to the rule. The authorities at present have the best of it, but if they wish always to occupy that proud position I would strongly advise them not to give the entire control of the Nursing staff into the hands of any Matron."

I GATHER from a contemporary (I don't mention names) the following:—"Christmas Fare.—The Workhouse Visiting Committee recommended that the following extras be allowed for the Christmas festivities at the Workhouse, viz.:—44st. meat and suet, 42lb. horseradish, 4cwt. potatoes, 9lb. fresh butter, 18 quarts milk, 250lb. flour, 168lb. currants, 168lb. raisins, 25lb. peel, 4½lb. spice, 2½lb. ginger, 25lb. sugar, 30 eggs, 3½ barrels ale and porter, 8lb. tobacco. This was agreed to." And what puzzles and amuses me is the fact that there appears to be one pound of horseradish provided for every 3½lbs. of meat. However, Boards of Guardians know the tastes of their own people the best, and it is not for me to make remarks.

A PRINCELY and most acceptable offer is that of ten thousand pounds, which has been made by Colonel Seely, High Sheriff of Notts, to the Nottingham Social Guild, for their convalescent home work. If a sufficient sum can be raised by annual subscriptions to defray the cost of the maintenance of the patients, he will contribute this sum either for establishment charges, or as a building fund. A resolution was passed at a public meeting yesterday, expressing the desirability of extending convalescent home work in the district, and thanking Colonel Seely for his munificent offer.

I AM glad to learn that the question of Matrons at police-stations has cropped up again, notably in the House of Commons, where "Sir R. Fowler asked the Home Secretary what recent progress had been made in the employment of women as Resident Matrons or Caretakers at police-stations in London and the provinces, and had any police-stations in London and the provinces been yet appropriated exclusively to the reception of females under arrest; and, if so, how many were there of such stations? Mr. Matthews.—I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that this question is now under the consideration of a board of experienced officers, who will shortly make a report; and I await that report before taking any further steps. The answer to the last paragraph is in the negative, as far as London is concerned, and I am not aware that any police-stations are appropriated to this purpose in the

provinces." There is, undoubtedly, very considerable room for improvement in these things.

A SPECIAL appeal for two thousand pounds for the purpose of completing the steam heating and ventilation of the Royal National Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest on the Separate Principle, situate near Ventnor, in the Undercliff of the Isle of Wight, is now being made, and I wish the Committee every success in their efforts.

THE winner of the ninth Post Card Examination question is Mrs. Woodford, M.B.N.A. I would again draw my readers' attention to the importance and value of these competitions, and refer them to the question given in the present issue:

A KIND correspondent writes, in reference to my remarks in the *Nursing Record* of the 4th inst. respecting the capabilities of the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, Coventry:—"There have been very many alterations both for the benefit of the Nursing Staff and the patients during the eighteen years that the present Matron has held the Matronship. One thing she has been most fortunate in her Nurses and servants, some of whom have held office from six to twelve years. This, of course, is a great help to any Matron, and I can truly say that the Hospital has gained in favour with all classes in Coventry. The highest number of in-patients previous to the year 1873 was one hundred and seventy; last year it was over five hundred. The working men's collection has increased each year, and this year exceeds £1,000." S. G.

WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

LADIES AND BABIES.

THIS sounds a queer title for one of a series of articles on the employment of women, but I can think of no other, simply because our rather erratic language chooses the same word to be employed for two different meanings. The word I refer to is the good old word "Nurse," a word connected with our earliest years, with our first memories, as well as with hours of sickness tenderly soothed by one who, "while pain and anguish rung the brow," proved to be verily a ministering angel, although soaring not on snow-white wings, as in childhood we ever pictured these celestial beings, who "yet do minister" to the sons of men. Nearly all women have a natural affinity to babies, and "take to them

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