

walked up to the ward, and was put to bed with blankets and hot water bottles, and given hot beef tea. On the fifth day after his admission he died. A certificate was given that death was due to disease of the kidneys and the man buried, but the body was subsequently exhumed on a warrant issued by Mr. Troutbeck, and an inquest held.

In connection with this case the important point is that after being seen and admitted by a medical officer the patient was placed in the charge of an untrained person. The system, rather than the individual, is primarily to blame. On admission the patient should be handed on by the medical officer to a Sister, or responsible nurse, and so long as he remains in the institution he should be under trained supervision.

The fifteenth annual meeting of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Co-operation of Trained Nurses was held last week. Lady Stirling-Maxwell president, occupied the chair. The report by the Executive Committee stated that the number of cases attended during the year was 1,980, compared with 1,800 in 1906. The number of nurses on the roll is now 185 compared with 169 last year, and their earnings amounted to £11,549, compared with £10,734. As a result of the bazaar held in November in aid of the formation of a sick fund for the nurses it was estimated that about £3,600 would be available for investment. The financial report showed that the total income for the year was £1,530 14s. 10d., and the expenditure £1,095 8s. 11d., leaving a surplus of £435 5s. 11d. Lady Stirling-Maxwell moved the adoption of the reports. Dr. David Newman, in seconding, said the co-operation was steadily progressing, both in its usefulness and in its finances.

Nurse Brady, a Queen's Nurse, stationed at Annagry, Co. Donegal, in connection with Lady Dudley's Scheme, is providing a Christmas treat for about 40 children in her district. A member of Lady Dudley's Nursing Committee has given a Christmas tree, and other members have made contributions of toys.

To prove how little significance medical letters have for the less educated section of the public, an old story has just been retold. The pith of this story is that a patient said she always went to a certain doctor (who happened to possess a somewhat third-rate qualification), because he had "Physician and Surgeon" after his name, whilst his rival only put up "M.D.," and she was not quite certain what that meant!

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

Wednesday last might have been called Doll Day by those present at the Albert Hall, where, beautifully grouped, were 40,000 dolls and other toys on view before distribution amongst the thousands of little sufferers compelled to spend Christmas in hospitals and institutions. A hospital nurse who hides her identity under the name of "Yoko" has dressed 400 in the sweetest little costumes imaginable. A representation of "A Fairy Ring" had written on an accompanying card the following pretty verse from the "Dolly Ballads":—

"If you hide into the bracken
When the daisies is asleep,
An' hold your hands before your face
An' peep, an' peep, an' peep,
An' never talk nor wiggle,
An' don't do anysing,
You'll see the little fairies come
An' make a fairy ring."

Mr. William C. Bridgeman, the Hon. Treasurer of the Hospital for Invalid Gentlewomen, 90, Harley Street, W., writes to the Press that he is authorised by Miss Florence Nightingale, the organiser and first lady superintendent, to reprint the following extracts from her letter written in 1901, and to add that Miss Nightingale continues to hold the same favourable opinion of the hospital as therein expressed:—

"I write to make an appeal for an institution which is doing good work—work after my own heart, and, I trust, God's work. No. 90, Harley Street, is an establishment for gentlewomen in temporary illness, and has been in existence since 1850, when, with the help of Lady Canning, I was able to set it on foot, and to preside over it until I went to the Crimean war. There is no other institution exactly like this. In it our governesses (who are primarily eligible), the wives and daughters of the clergy, of our naval, military, and other professional men receive every possible care, comfort, and first-rate advice at the most moderate cost. But this cannot be done without larger contributions. All the good work has been done entirely gratuitously by eminent physicians and surgeons. The patients contribute to their board and lodging, and thus meet half the expenses of the establishment. Everyone connected with this home and haven for the suffering is doing their utmost for it, and it is always full. I ask and pray my friends who still remember me not to let this truly sacred work languish and die for want of a little more money.—Yours obediently, Florence Nightingale."

Owing to the expiration of the present lease, about £12,000 is required to erect and equip a new building. Towards this sum the committee have already collected £4,000, and it is essential that the balance should be secured, so as to complete the new hospital with the least possible delay. The need of a hospital in London for poor gentlewomen is imperative.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)