

The programmes were scarlet, with the ancient seal of the Founder, Bishop Gundolph, in black.

Each patient and member of the staff received a gift, and the visitors were given small silk lavender sachets and quaint little "brownies" made of suede, as a memento of the occasion.

At Kingston Infirmary the Christmas season was observed with fervour, the Christmas tree, laden with delightful toys, being kept as a *bonne bouche* to the last, caused many speculations and joyful anticipations. Each day groups of wards had their own special tea parties and entertainments, and last week the nurses had a dance from seven to twelve. First the night staff and then the day staff tripped round to the merry music—and, though tired with all the work coincident with the season, once a piano or band strikes up dance music, nurses are never too tired to enjoy themselves, and seem as fresh as daisies. The next evening the festivities ended with the maids' party, when all in the building felt the happy time they had enjoyed was due not a little to the Matron, Miss A. Smith, who had worked early and late to fit together the pieces of the big puzzle so that all might have their share of enjoyment.

Miss G. Bryan, the late Sister Kenton, now Sister-in-Charge at King Square Home, sends the following graceful little letter of gratitude to *St. Bartholomew's Hospital Journal* :—

DEAR SIR,—I have read in the JOURNAL for this month the very kind things written of me, and should like to thank those whose thoughts you have expressed. I have always received the greatest kindness and courtesy from those with whom I came in contact—from the "Intern," who taught me as a new "Pro" to spell "Leucocyte," to my last house-surgeons, who must have suffered sometimes, I fear, from the great tiredness which made me consent to give up the work I have loved so well. May I express what I feel by quoting from a nursery rhyme as illustrating, perhaps, how such pleasant relations came about :—

"What makes the lamb love Mary so?" the eager children cry;

'Oh! Mary loves the lamb, you know!' the teacher did reply."

If I have trespassed too much on your limited space do not "crowd me out," but "cut me down," leaving just my gratitude and my affection for all my old friends, in whose welfare I shall never cease to take the greatest interest.

This is a pen that in her comparative leisure we should advise Miss Bryan to use more frequently for the pleasure of her fellow nurses.

The late Jane Lady Huntingdon, who was deeply attached to the Darwen Nursing Association, has bequeathed it £3,000. She helped to found it, and with her late husband provided the first Nurses' Home, which she also furnished and equipped, and she was President of the Association from its inception to the time of her death.

We regret to learn that mysterious thefts continue to occur in many Nurses' Homes, and great worry and distress are thus occasioned. At a recent meeting of St. George's Board of Guardians, Prince's Row, S.W., the Infirmary Committee reported: "We regret to report that owing to a continuance of pilfering from the Nurses' Home we have offered a reward of £3 3s. for information leading to the discovery of the offender, and ask that our action may be approved." This was done.

We have inquired of several matrons their opinion on this question. One replied: "The salaries of probationers—from £8 to £12 a year—are far too low. Many girls who come to train in hospitals or infirmaries have not a penny beyond these inadequate salaries. How, I ask you, can they meet the ever-increasing cost for decent clothes and personal expenses? The class offering themselves of late years as probationers cannot expect help from parents; indeed, many have no parents or friends able to afford them financial support. My suggestion is to remove the temptation to pilfer caps, aprons, cuffs, collars, underclothing, and shoes, by giving young women who have to earn their own living a salary of not less than £20 a year; it is little enough for the purpose. I have known of many probationers who could not afford to buy warm underclothing in winter, and have suffered in health in consequence."

We are glad to know that the Local Government Board have decided to hold an inquiry into the strike of probationers at the Poor Law Infirmary, Carlisle, but consider their selection of a local inspector unfortunate. Such an inquiry, to be considered quite impartial, should be conducted by a stranger to the district, who can consider the question entirely without any preconceived opinion. We should suggest that one of the Lady Inspectors on Nursing should be sent from London to enquire into this question of friction in the nursing department of the Carlisle Poor Law Infirmary.

In no well-organised hospital should the medical and nursing authority be so ill-

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