

The hand-work of all the little garments and bed clothes was necessarily of the finest description, and must have taken a considerable time to design and construct. That it was a labour of love was evidenced by the fact of the daintiness of the work, and the neatness and number of stitches!

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BUT, said a kindly-looking Nurse, "I will show you something which will perhaps interest you more than these little models," and she led the way to the children's wards. She was right. Human flesh and blood will always be more interesting than any perfection in arts and crafts. I should like, if space permitted, to say more about the Lilliputian sufferers and their surroundings, but must be contented with the remembrance of the air of cheerfulness and brightness the Nurses had managed to suffuse around them. I cannot forbear mentioning two very distinguished little pets. A pair of squirrels frisked about a cage thoroughly enjoying existence. They had been taken from their nest when quite young, and had been reared by the cat. They did their foster-mother much credit, and their fur was of a rich brown colour, in good condition, and altogether they looked so neat, and pretty, and lovable, as to command admiration. They are the delight of the little convalescent patients, of the Nurses, and of visitors.

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A VALUED Indian correspondent sends me the following interesting and important cutting from *The Madras Times*.—

The Secretary of State for India has recently had under consideration several questions raised by the Government of India relating to the interpretation to be placed on the rulings regarding the penalties attaching to resignation by a lady Nurse of her appointment in the Indian Nursing Service before completion of her five-years' term of engagement. Under existing rules, a lady Nurse who resigns on account of ill-health with less than five years' Indian service, is required forthwith to refund the sum of £30 on account of her passage out to India, and is not entitled to a passage home. This ruling was originally introduced with a view to securing to Government the services of these ladies for a period sufficiently long to repay the cost of bringing them out to India or, failing that, to enable Government to recover some part of the expenditure incurred. In order to prevent the possible misunderstanding that the six months' notice stipulated for in paragraph 1814, Army Regulations, India, Vol. VI., and the ill-health condition mentioned, are combined, instead of alternative rules, it has been decided that a lady Nurse who resigns (except on account of ill-health) with less than five years' Indian Service, will forthwith refund the sum of £20 in respect of her passage out (or £30 if she has failed to give the required six months' notice), and will not be entitled to a passage home. As regards Nurses re-engaged for a second term of service, it does not appear to His Lordship necessary to extend to re-engaged Nurses the whole of the penalties imposed on non-fulfilment of a first engagement, but it is

reasonable that they should be required to give six months' notice in case of resignation or to pay the penalties for failure to do so. Should it in any case be found necessary to dispense at once with the services of a lady Nurse, she may, at the discretion of the Government of India, be allowed a gratuity not exceeding six months' pay, from the date of receiving official intimation of her removal from the service. And if engaged in England, she will be provided with a passage home at the public expense in a private vessel."

Christianity and Nursing.

BY MRS. ORMISTON CHANT.

IT is impossible to ignore the significance of such a correspondence as that which has occupied no mean portion of the pages of one of our best London "dailies," for the last two or three weeks, under the heading of a momentous question—"Is Christianity played out?" It is also impossible in a periodical like the NURSING RECORD to ignore its right to be heard on such a matter. For who shall gainsay the assertion that, of all sections of the community, none have been more distinctly Christian, none have been more directly the flower and fruit of the sowing of the Master of Love than those who have nursed and cared for the sick poor.

Whatever the Christianity of the theologians and the schoolmen may have been, and may yet be—in whatever new draping of words the thought of Man about God, Death, and the Soul shall clothe itself—the spirit that He embodied first of all among all the chosen sons of men, who taught us that religion, is our highest response to the demands made on us by our brother man, and the highest demand made by us on our Father God, is the spirit that is slowly, but surely, leavening every human institution with its own divine attributes of justice, truth, and love.

Our Hospitals, medical missions at home and abroad, parish Nurses, organisations for providing trained Nurses for infirmaries, the very infirmaries themselves, are all manifestations of that spirit which impels men and women to make provision for the sick and needy, and inspires men and women with enthusiastic pity and love for all that are in pain, unlucky and unsuccessful.

There is nothing like this organised religiousness possible under the régime of the worship of the Sun, of Iris, or a Roman or Grecian Mythology, or even of Judaism before the Christ-spirit pervaded and modified it; and no system of Ethics or propaganda of Spiritualism will perfect the divine

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