

'In the larger Workhouses, the Nurses should be under the direct control of a trained and experienced Superintendent or Head Nurse, subject to the direction of the Medical Officer in all matters of treatment . . . In Workhouse Infirmaries under separate administration, the Matron should herself be a trained Nurse, and have charge of the Nursing Staff." To this matter we will return in an early issue of this Journal.

With regard to the first point, Dr. DOLAN advances new arguments which we have not hitherto seen quoted, but which appear to us to have much practical force. He points out that the employment of pauper inmates in sick wards is, in a variety of ways, most costly. If fit for such employment, they should be fit to earn their own living; and a proof of this is often afforded by the fact that when the extras and indulgences granted to pauper helps are withheld, many of these people speedily take their discharge from the Workhouse. Dr. DOLAN shows that the paupers who are available to nurse the sick poor are, as a rule, not persons of such character, nor possessed of such bodily and mental qualities, as to render them efficient attendants upon the sick, and that to commit the care of patients to persons who have no responsibility, and no interest in the work, nor any knowledge of the duties required therein, and who certainly are, from their previous life, unaccustomed to thrift or carefulness, not only brings about much harm to the individual patients, but causes an amount of waste and misappropriation of food which is sometimes so great as to result in an appreciable increase of the demand upon the rates. This is, to our mind, an argument which should be forced home upon the ordinary Boards of Guardians throughout the Kingdom. It is always urged by them that the employment of pauper helps instead of Trained Nurses effects a saving. Dr. DOLAN clearly shows that it means a distinct, and often a very serious, pecuniary loss. It is, for example, to the manifest interest of these pauper helps that the sick under their charge should not get well, or their occupation would be gone. It is to their interest that larger quantities of food and of alcoholic stimulants should be provided for the sick—that is to say, in the majority of cases, for the private consumption of the attendants. Furthermore, Dr. DOLAN shows what costly workers these ignorant people are, and how it is, for example, by no means unusual to find an expensive water-bed spoiled through sheer ignorance and carelessness on the part of such irresponsible pauper attendants.

There is, however, a field open for these able-bodied inmates of the workhouse which might, perhaps, be utilised to an even greater extent than at present; they could, with advantage, be employed as scrubbers or ward attendants; for the

work of cleansing the wards and institution they are both by early training and capabilities well fitted. But their duty must be restricted to this, and they must not, in future, if the care of the sick poor is to be at all efficient, be permitted to undertake any kind of Nursing work. This argument of greater economy to be secured by greater efficiency, we believe, only requires to be clearly understood in order to bring about a revolution in the system, which all the arguments on the ground of humanity hitherto directed against it have failed to effect. Let it be once understood that the expense of a pauper help is greater by some £50 a year, indirectly and directly, than the cost of a thoroughly-trained Nurse, and such inefficient workers would soon be banished from our State Hospitals.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

The many kind letters and good wishes which we have received this week from our readers, in different parts of the world, remind us of our pleasurable duty to tender to them all the customary greetings of the Season. Wherever the English language is spoken, Christmas time still remains the great festival of the year, and, all the world over, under the British flag, the Christmas bells ring out, as of yore, fervent wishes for peace upon earth and good-will towards men. In the hospital world it is an altogether special season, and is made an occasion for brightening the lives, and breaking the monotony of the hours, of the sick and suffering in their wards. Everyone is busy with the additional work of decorations and the unusual festivities; and in the Colonies, as at home in the Old Country, Yuletide is celebrated with equal heartiness and zest whether the temperature be below zero or stands above what we regard as summer heat. Whatever the climate or the sphere in which they work, the same spirit, we feel sure, animates all our readers at Christmas time. It has been a great pleasure to us to feel that we are so closely associated with so many thousands of professional workers, and that many cordially appreciate the efforts which we have made during the past year to give them all the assistance in our power in their calling by yielding them information as to new methods of Nursing, and as to all the new discoveries in medical treatment. It is a corresponding pleasure to us to find that so many remember us kindly in their festivities, and we can assure them that alike in their work and in their pleasure, we cordially co-operate and sympathise with them. For their good wishes at this season we return our grateful thanks and heartily wish our readers, one and all, in every part of the world, all the best greetings of the Season, trusting that they may each one, individually, enjoy a Very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy, Prosperous, New Year.

THE GRAFTON GALLERIES, Grafton Street, W., is admirably suited for Hospital Banquets, Receptions, Parties, Conversations, &c. The Hall is hung with the famous pictures of the Dilettanti Society, and can hold 200 Guests and the Galleries from 500 upwards. For particulars apply to the Secretary, 8, Grafton Street. The Catering is under the sole direction of V. BENOIST, 36, Piccadilly, W.

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