

## Comments and Replies.

### REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

WE shall publish in our next issue—the special New Year's number—a letter from Miss Mollett on the subject of Sisters' Sitting Rooms, in reply to the correspondence which her former letter aroused in these columns.

We shall be very pleased to receive from Matrons, Sisters, or Nurses a short account of how Christmas has been observed in their Hospitals. We are sure our readers would be very glad to join in the spirit with the various festivities afforded to Hospital patients in different parts of the country, and these accounts would have the added advantage of giving new ideas as to entertainments and amusements suitable for the sick. It is often so difficult to introduce a new feature into festivities, and most Hospital workers are anxious to hear of simple novelties for the pleasure of their sick patients.

*Sister Hope, London.*—Many thanks for your cheery Christmas letter and its good wishes. We would in turn send our hope that your festive season will be happy. In your busy life there is not much chance of rest at Christmas, but we agree with you that there is a great deal of refreshment in seeing others enjoy the good things prepared for them.

*Miss G. H., Southport.*—We certainly think there are and will still be more good openings for women dispensers. But you *must* qualify properly. The experience you have had as an assistant to your father in his chemist's business will of course be of value. But we are surprised that you should ask, "Will this do without the bother of passing examinations?" Of course it will not do, as your father could have told you. It is absolutely necessary to hold a recognised qualification. Women can never compete with men as

long as they want to enter "through a back-door" to any profession or business. They must be thorough and go through the absolutely necessary drudgery. Work is the crucible which determines whether people are in earnest or only "playing at life." If you want to "play" keep out of the army of wage-earners.

## Last Words for 1895.

ANOTHER year has come and gone, and one which will be recognised as of great significance to Nurses, when its inner history stands revealed. In it there has been observed an awakening, upon the part of many Nurses, to a sense of interest in professional matters and public duty, and with that awakening the inevitable desire for action. As Editor of the NURSING RECORD, we have had many opportunities of seeing into the heart of the Nursing world, and it is with a deep sense of gratitude for the past, and hope in the future, that we use the editorial pen to indite the last words to our readers which will reach them in the year of grace, 1895.

In undertaking the arduous weekly duty of editing this journal, we have been, as we ever shall be, inspired with a strong sense of our personal duty to our fellow Nurses. We shall continue fearlessly in the future, as we have done in the past, to claim for them the great human rights of liberty of conscience and of speech, and the professional rights of due recognition by the State (of which they are well-deserving servants). And we would further urge each Nurse in the coming year to be true to her womanhood and her profession by giving *personal service* to gain for her colleagues the enjoyment of these great rights.

ETHEL G. FENWICK, Editor.

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