December 30th, a magic lantern was shown in the Children's December 30th, a magic lantern was shown in the Children's Ward, and was much appreciated by everyone who was able to be present. New Year's Eve a tea-party was given in the Children's Ward; afterwards Sister Ruston distributed to the delighted little ones the different articles, not forgetting older people. The ward decorations were unusually light and pretty, coloured paper relieving the heaviness of the evergreens. Matron, Sisters, and Nurses gained considerable praise for the excellent manner in which they arranged everything for the enjoyment of the poor suffering inmates. The Chapel was beautifully decorated by kind friends. Celebrations of the Holy Eucharist were administered by Chancellor Leeke and Mr. Goodall at 6 o'clock, 8.30, and also in one of Leeke and Mr. Goodall at 6 o'clock, 8.30, and also in one of the wards; Morning prayer at 10.30. Afterwards carols were sung by some of the Nursing Staff. Sunday, December 29th, the Bishop of the Diocese preached the sermon; collections afterwards were made for the Maplethorpe Convalescent Home. A Midnight Service was held on New Year's Eve, afterwards a celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Dr. Lockhart Robertson has resigned the office of one of the Lord Chancellor's Visitors of Lunatics, and will be succeeded by Dr. David Nicolson.

The Executive Committee of the Sir Andrew Clark memorial has unanimously agreed to thank the House Committee of the London Hospital for the very liberal offer made on behalf of the governors of this great charity, which is, we understand, to the effect that the governors will make every effort to undertake the erection of an isolation block at their hospital within the next five years. The Andrew Clark Memorial Committee have, therefore, agreed to hand over the net sum collected, which amounts to about £2,500, to the governors of the London Hospital, to be funded for the present. This sum will then form the nucleus of a fund for present. This sum will then form the nucleus of a fund for the provision of the new Isolation Block, which is so urgently which it is expected will cost about £13,000. In the event of the building being carried out it will be named the Andrew Clark wing.

In Glasgow there is a "Guild of Kindness," which has organised a scheme for Christmas toys intended for Children's Hospitals to be sent to a central station from where they could be distributed fairly and impartially among the various Institutions and Hospitals. This seems an excellent scheme as so many Hospitals get too many toys while others are very badly off. There certainly seems no logical reason why Christmas gifts and toys should not be organised and distributed in the same way as Hospital Funds. The scheme might also be extended so as to reach children who are not might also be extended so as to reach children who are not in Hospitals or Homes. There are thousands of infirm and crippled children throughout the country who never from one year to the other even see a toy or plaything.

The Bristol Private Hospital for Women and Children has just been established at 34, Berkeley Square. The Hospital has a staff of women doctors, and is intended specially to meet the needs of women engaged in teaching, business, or other self-supporting callings, who are often unable in their own homes to receive the care and treatment requisite in cases of serious or prolonged illness.

The date fixed for the next International Medical Con-The date fixed for the next International Medical Congress is the week beginning August 19th, 1896, and the place of meeting will be Moscow. The Emperor of Russia has given his Imperial sanction to the Congress. Papers and discussions must be either in French or German. Russian has been excluded lest the Congress should become national rather than International, and English also, on the grounds that it is a language little used or understood by other than Englishmen. Englishmen.

Mr. O'Callaghan sends the following explanation to the Lancet of the state of affairs at the Chelsea Hospital for

Women, which has resulted in his being compelled to resign his position there. He gives the following copy of the letter he sent to the Board of Management in June last, after his house-surgeon had reported him to the Board for a reprimand Mr. O'Callaghan considered he, as senior, had a perfect right to administer.

June 23rd, 1895.
Gentlemen,—I beg to acknowledge your letter of the 20th inst., and to say that it is quite true that I have expressly forbidden your resident medical officer to interfere expressly forbidden your resident medical officer to interfere in any way with my operation cases. It is quite untrue that my Staff Nurse treats my patients beyond carrying out my instructions. With regard to your remarks as to rules, I know of no rule that can interfere with my responsibility in the care and treatment of my patients, and I will not share with an inexperienced resident medical officer this grave responsibility in any serious operations which I may have from time to time to undertake. Both he and my Staff Nurse and Matron are instructed that, in case of any condition arising in which my presence is required, they should dition arising in which my presence is required, they should wire for me, or, if at night, send a hansom. My time is my patients', and in less than an hour I can always be at their bed-side. This is the system to which I always have been accustomed, and to which I mean to adhere. That it is no experiment is evident from the fact that in the Samaritan Hospital, which may be called the parent Institution for abdominal surgery, under Sir Spencer Wells and his successors, the medical staff have persistently refused to commit their cases to a house surgeon, and to this system they attribute their great success, which is a matter of common notoriety. The necessity for this arrangement has been forcibly brought before me by the treatment of my last hysterectomy by the resident medical officer.

Mr. O'Callaghan gives the following lucid explanation of the difficulties of the situation. He says:—
"The treatment referred to is this: Within eight hours

after a hysterectomy the house surgeon tightened up the serre-nœud which was on healthy uterine tissue, removed all the dressings superficial and deep, which meant lifting up the pin and taking out the pressure pads, and interfered a second time the next morning early, all this being done without sending for me, which he had strict orders to do. These are facts which are undeniable; I saw all these dressings next day. For this disobedience to my wishes I reprimanded the house surgeon, and he took the very unusual course of reporting me surgeon, and he took the very unusual course of reporting me to the Board—hence my letter. I leave my action towards him and my views on this subject gladly to the criticism of any abdominal surgeon in Europe. All that I insisted upon in my so-called 'reform' was that the after treatment of these grave cases should be left to me alone. I never placed the house surgeon in an inferior position to a Nurse; he had complete charge of all my other cases. This was only one of many red herrings drawn across the track while evading the main point. The Board asked me to withdraw this letter, which I refused to do, as I felt conscientiously that those were the only conditions under which such terrible operations were justifiable, hence their antagonism to me. It is some satisfaction to feel that such men as Sir Spencer Wells, Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, and Dr. Robert Barnes found co-operation than Hutchinson, and Dr. Robert Barnes found co-operation with this Board impossible, and that since their resignation no man of position in London could be found willing to accept the post of Consultant, although many men of mature wisdom and experience have been approached to this effect. Why does this state of affairs exist? Public inquiry is the only means of solving this question. 1 am ready to place my case in the hands of any such tribunal, and to prove the veracity of all my statements. all my statements.

Here I can only simply deny the insinuations made against me by the Chairman and some of the staff. For the present For the present I leave my reputation, and their treatment of me, cheerfully to the judgment of my professional brethien, feeling certain that as 'Right is might' I will yet get an opportunity of meeting my enemies in the gate.

I have the honour to be, Sirs, your obedient servant, Harley Street, W. ROBERT O'CALLAGHAN."

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