

IN a list of acknowledgments of gifts to an Infirmary, we noticed recently that one lady sent a basket of rhubarb, another a copy of *Tin Bits*, while a third donated some primroses. All these gifts were duly set forth in a large provincial paper.

It was stated at a recent meeting of the Bradford Board of Guardians by Mr. John Jackson, that during the last twelve months there were thirty-one resignations of Nurses and other officials in the Workhouse, and to supply their places cost £73 8s. 9d. in advertising and paying the travelling expenses of candidates. This is a very serious item on the rates, and the fact of so many resignations points to something wrong in the organisation.

It is always gratifying to hear of Infirmary patients appreciating the work of their Nurses. A proposal was before the Hastings Board of Guardians to increase the salary of Nurse O'Key. One of the women Guardians said Nurse O'Key was spoken of by the patients as "the good fairy" and "the good angel." So we are glad her salary was raised.

AN advertisement recently appeared in a London daily newspaper. "Adoption.—Wanted by advertiser, a little girl about two years old, for adoption. Full surrender. The child so adopted will be brought up to a good profession—that of Nursing—and will otherwise be well cared for."

This is a somewhat cut-and-dried way of disposing of an infant's future. It is somewhat curious to decide when a baby is two years old that it shall be brought up to a profession at all. But it is still more curious when a definite profession is chosen. Suppose when the little girl developed into a big one, she were to show great aptitude for some other calling, would she be called upon to fulfil the original contract or intention of making her a Nurse? Suppose she were to show great inaptitude or a rooted prejudice against the calling selected by her foster-mother? It is an admirable thing to adopt and give a good home to some poor little waif, but it must be a mistake to so early map out the career for the child. But it is quite safe to predict that, should this little girl enter the Nursing profession when she has reached years of discretion, she will find the path comparatively smooth, and the methods much more advanced and organised than they are to-day.

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Sold by Leading Family Grocers Everywhere.

MISS SYKES, who was recently in charge of one of Lady Roberts' Hospitals in India, has been appointed Superintendent of the Accident Hospital, Barry Docks.

THE annual meeting of the Metropolitan Nursing Association has just been held at Grosvenor House. The Earl of Strafford presided. The report showed that during the year 18 Nurses who had spent two years in Hospitals had been admitted to the Home for training in district work, and 20 had completed their district training. Practical demonstrations of the preparation of food and drinks for the sick had recently been started. The number of cases nursed during the year was 1,468. Six Board schools were daily visited by a Nurse who, by skilfully applying simple remedies, enabled 783 little sufferers from minor ailments to continue their attendance at school. The Association's revenue had been £1,890, and the expenditure £1,773. Canon Ingram, as a member of the School Board, acknowledged the valuable work done by the Nurses at the schools.

SPEAKING editorially, the *Trained Nurse* says:—

"The increasingly varied public positions into which women are thrown makes it incumbent upon them to be familiar with parliamentary usage and practice.

There is no doubt that much of the friction and disorganisation in societies and associations is due to the lack of the knowledge necessary to avoid friction. Officers interfere with each other's duties, committees overlap, and the unauthorised member often acts in the exuberance of her zeal, causing confusion and misunderstanding and conflict. Personal feeling is often the result of ignorance of parliamentary usage, and the authority exercised is too often viewed from a personal standpoint, the enforcement of rules as the exercise of prejudice or personal bias. A full knowledge of even the elementary rules of parliamentary practice would clear the vision and reduce friction. The greatest good accomplished by a knowledge of parliamentary law is that it removes the personal relation between the governor and the governed; law is the authority, not the individual. A woman called to order who has knowingly violated a parliamentary law sees the justice of the call to order, and does not make the mistake of assuming that personal prejudice, or antagonism to her cause, is the reason for the exercise of authority over her. Knowledge of rulings that prevail in well-organised bodies, based on universally recognised authorities, is analogous to familiarity with the laws governing social intercourse in cultured society. The one who offends knowingly bears the penalty with a sense of its justice; the one who offends unknowingly is wholly dependent on the patience and mercy of those offended, and is saved by the courage of a friend's criticism. Women are recognising their need of training in the conducting of public affairs, and are seeking that training to increase their ability and their value in the public life that is sought by many, and thrust upon many. The members of classes studying parliamentary law are often heard to insist that the greatest value of the study is the social training that unexpectedly results."

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