

SOME 200 children belonging to the out-patient department of the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children were regaled last Saturday at a sumptuous tea, followed by a capital entertainment of a marionette show and music. Finally, toys and a parcel of warm clothing for each child were distributed from a mammoth Christmas tree.

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THE annual Christmas tree distribution arranged by the Matron, Miss Davidson, will take place on Friday, January 3rd, at the Brompton Hospital.

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ON Christmas Day the patients of Middlesex Hospital had the usual Christmas fare of turkey and pudding, the wards being prettily decorated with palms and ferns, which looked particularly nice when lighted up in the evening with fairy lights and candles. The Sisters and Nurses worked hard at the festivities and decorations. A monster Christmas tree was erected in the Board Room from which all the patients able to leave the wards had a present. For those unable to leave their beds a bran pie was provided, a dip into which brought a useful and pleasing present. The Middlesex Hospital Musical Society will give a concert, under the leadership of Dr. J. J. Pringle, which will bring Christmas festivities to a close.

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IT is always delightful to see decorations at Christmas in Hospital wards, and especially in those which are devoted to sick children. But there must always be discretion used to savour such ornamentation. Many eccentricities display themselves, and unconscious ironies, and we are tempted to wonder whether it was a practical joke on the part of a medical student, or want of a perception of humour on the part of the Sister and Nurses of a children's ward in a provincial town which led to the display of a large pictorial banner at the bottom of the ward. On this banner was a picture representing a lion rampant, of full size, with an abnormally large development of teeth and claws. As a zoological specimen it was admirable and was, at the same time, calculated to inspire much terror among the youngest patients. Wherefore the inscription below, "Suffer Little Children to come unto Me," was decidedly incongruous. It seemed a most barbarous compound of cannibalism and religion.

THE Infirmary Committee of St. George's, Hanover Square, recently presented a recommendation that senior Nurses be in future called Sisters. A good deal of discussion ensued on the ground that the title was usually associated with a religious community. But finally the recommendation was carried by a large majority. We are glad that it was, as unquestionably the designation tends to raising the standard of Infirmary Nurses and Nursing, and leads also to a better class of Nurse applying for Infirmary appointments.

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THE Chard Board of Guardians are preparing some work with which the Local Government Board can begin the new year. At the last meeting of the Guardians before Christmas, a letter was received from the Local Government Board relative to the recent appointment of a Nurse. The Board had ascertained that the Nurse had not had any experience, and they asked the Guardians to reconsider the appointment.

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The Chairman said "that it was a most extraordinary thing. The Guardians had come to the conclusion that a suitable person had been appointed, and, from what he heard, she was doing her work very well. It was no sin that she should begin this work for the first time. He understood that Mr. Henry Chaplain had never been President of the Local Government Board before, and on the same principle he was not suitable for the appointment."

Finally, the Board resolved that the Local Government Board should be informed that the appointment would be made for six months, when a report would be made to them as to the way in which she carried out her duties.

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Now there will be none who will dispute the obvious statement of the Chairman that "it was no sin that she should begin this work for the first time." The sin lies in the action of the Guardians in giving responsible work to a novice.

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It would be rather interesting to hear the views of the Chairman of the Chard Board of Guardians were he to be lying dangerously ill, and were to be provided with a totally untutored Nurse. Would he not consider cold, clammy poultices a "sin"? And how would he like the

CARLSBAD—the renowned Spa in Bohemia—has been thronged this summer with patients suffering from all kinds of liver and gouty complaints, who have reaped great benefit from taking the celebrated waters; but it is not sufficiently known that persons unable to visit the Spa can obtain the *natural* Carlsbad Sprüdel Salts or Waters at all Chemists, Stores, &c. To distinguish the *natural* salts from artificial imitations, note the names on wrapper of "LOEBEL SCHOTLAENDER, CARLSBAD," and INGRAM & ROYLE, Ltd., Sole Agents, 52, Farringdon Street, E.C.; 19, South John Street, Liverpool; 80, Redcliff Street, Bristol. Pamphlet on application.

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