

the Dover Union have shown their appreciation of the work done by making a special donation towards this fund. It is satisfactory to notice that, after paying all expenses, the Nurses' Institution starts the new year with a balance in hand of £10 10s. 9d.

At a recent meeting of the Aston (Birmingham) Board of Guardians the question was brought up as to whether Nurse Carson, who had informed the General Purposes Committee that she was a married woman, should be permitted, as she requested, to remain in the service of the Board. The Committee recommended that the nurse should be retained. Mrs. Rollason, on the other hand, contended that Nurse Carson had obtained the post under false pretences, and in the interests of the good government of the house should be asked to resign. She moved an amendment to this effect, which was seconded by Mr. Roberts, and supported by the Chairman, who was of opinion that while the conduct of the nurse might not amount to fraud it was distinctly not "straight." With these facts before us we are inclined to think that Mrs. Rollason is in the right. If a nurse will descend to deception to obtain a post, she is not unlikely to prove unworthy of trust in the fulfilment of her duties. Another point presents itself for consideration, which is, that many committees object to employing any married woman, as the husband may at any moment appear, and claim his right to take away his wife; a right which, as at present the married woman is the chattel of her husband, the Committee is bound to admit, and which may cause serious inconvenience. On this ground, therefore, even if everything is above board a committee may, we think, legitimately take exception to employing a married woman.

THERE is, as has been remarked, not much reticence, nor, we may add, privacy, about any of us now-a-days; but even in these days of publicity it is somewhat of a novelty, and we cannot say it is a pleasing one, for the performance of an operation, from beginning to end, to take place at the window of a nursing home in full view of the neighbouring houses. Such, however, was the spectacle which might, and probably was, witnessed by many persons residing not a quarter of a mile from Harley Street, one afternoon last week. There was the table in the window, the operator in linen jacket, the assistant in his shirt sleeves, the nurse with bowls, and the rest of the paraphernalia, all complete. The operation over, the child—for child it was—lay on the table for a while, and was attended to from time to time by the nurse, until it had "come round," when it was picked up and, presumably, carried off to bed. The whole spectacle was most gruesome, even to one seasoned to operation work. The only wonder is that any

nervous inhabitants of the neighbourhood were not in "strong hysterics."

ANOTHER "doggie" tale has been elicited by our reminiscences in last week's RECORD. In the outpatient department of a Maternity Charity the pet collie of the Home was in the habit of accompanying the District Nurses on their rounds. He never attempted to enter a patient's room, but many of the cases were on the ground floor. He learnt by experience that so long as the nurse washed the baby she paid a much longer visit than if she merely attended to the mother. Gelert consequently was in the habit of putting his head round the corner of the door. If he saw that the nurse took up the baby he settled himself down on the doorstep, but if she took no notice of the child, he stood until she had finished her work.

It is curious how many nurses keep pets, and eccentric pets, too. A correspondent tells us that on one occasion, when she went to do duty as *locum tenens* for the matron of an institution in the Midland Counties, two cherished bright green lizards, rejoicing in the names of Pierre and Delphine, were confided to her care. Handsome creatures they were, but repulsive, with cruel faces. They gloated over their morning meal of worms, freshly dug for them every day in the garden, and rejoiced when their cage was put out in a sunny patch on the lawn. The same lady was requested to apply a certain lotion, respecting which full directions were given, to the bald places on the cat's back not less than three times a week.

THEN there is Mac, the sometime monkey of the Metropolitan Hospital, who was the source of endless amusement to the patients, and not an unmixed joy to the probationer who used to prepare his bread and milk. Mac at one time became a patient. In this wise. He arrived in England at Christmas time, and as it was an unusually cold winter, he used to delight in sitting on the fireguard in front of the matron's fire. But his long and handsome tail had a way of getting mixed up with the fire, and, curiously enough, Mac did not seem to mind it in the least, but the result was a bit of bare bone at the end of his tail. So one never-to-be-forgotten day the last operation case in the theatre was Mac. Poor little chap! He was terribly frightened, but he took ether very well, and when he recovered himself he was minus several segments of bone in his tail, and had a properly covered stump, which was dressed and bandaged in proper stump fashion, a proceeding which Mac could in no wise understand, and took every opportunity of investigating, to the no small amusement of his visitors!

POOR MAC! He was very happy, but changes came,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)