

from a well laden Christmas Tree. This was followed by a most enjoyable entertainment in the Town Hall, by the St. John's Charity Minstrels, to which the patients as well as the children were admitted. Miss Purvis and the subscribers to the treat are to be congratulated upon the amount of pleasure they were the means of bestowing.

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FEELING ran high at a recent meeting of the Chorlton Board of Guardians, when the Hospital sub-committee who had been appointed to consider the question of the administration of the hospital, gave their report. Mrs. Parkhurst called attention to a minority report, and stated that in her opinion until things were better arranged, inquiries would go on "*ad infinitum*." She moved that the minute be referred back to the sub-committee. An extraordinary statement was made by Mrs. Sale, who seconded this. She said that she herself has gone to the hospital on a Saturday, and found that the children were not dressed on that day, because it was the day on which their clothing was changed. The children could not be kept in bed, and were running about the wet floor while undressed, and during the operations of the scrubbers. In support of this practice it was urged that the system had prevailed for a long time, and "had the *imprimatur* of the medical officer." We should say that the sooner the *imprimatur* is withdrawn the better. The very serious assertion was also made by Mrs. Parkhurst, that a single probationer was often left at night in charge of the three wards of a pavilion with over one hundred patients in them.

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IN order to meet the difficulty, which is experienced in Ireland, of obtaining nurses for workhouse infirmaries now that the inefficient services of pauper nurses are prohibited by the Local Government Board, the Countess of Pembroke is having twelve Irish girls—Roman Catholic and Protestant—trained at her own expense upon their undertaking to give at least three years to workhouse nursing. It is hoped, however, that this work may be largely extended, and the "Pembroke Committee for Training Workhouse Nurses" has been formed with this object. It is stated that there are, at present, not sufficient trained nurses in Ireland to supply the demand, and an added difficulty is that, in the poorer localities, the Boards of Guardians are unable to offer sufficiently high salaries to secure the services of qualified nurses.

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A most interesting article has appeared in the *Star* of January 24th, from the pen of Mrs. Crawford, giving the details of the work of Mlle. Bottard, who, last New Year's Day, was made a *chevaliere* of the Legion of Honour. In these days of hurry and change, it is good to read of this "mother of French hospital nurses," who for fifty-seven years has worked at the Salpêtrière, an asylum for old,

epileptic, and hysterical women. Mlle. Bottard first entered the Salpêtrière as a servant at wages of eight shillings a month, and it was noticed by the director that she had the genius of order, and some peculiar gift that enabled her to calm mad women. Her sympathy for these poor creatures was also great, and she suffered so intensely, when for acts of violence they were condemned to hours of the depressing warm bath, followed by douches, that she never complained, though she was beaten black and blue, and her life was in danger.

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Mlle. BOTTARD it was who began the work of separating the epileptics from the lunatics, and, on a separate ward being assigned to the former, she was placed over it, and stayed there ten years. She greatly preferred the lunatics, but looking upon herself as a soldier on duty, she expressed no preference but worked on. She afterwards worked under Legrand de Saulle and Charcot, the latter of whom testified publicly that to note daily her self-devotion, strong sense, patience and forbearance was to have a higher opinion of human nature. It was Charcot who arranged for the celebration of Maman Bottard's golden wedding with the Salpêtrière. "Students, past and actual, the whole medical staff, a delegation of the Town Council of Paris, and the Minister of Public Instruction came; each one had a bouquet to offer. The President of the Town Council gave a gold medal in memory of services rendered in one small-pox and four cholera visitations. The Minister had brought the palms and violet ribbon of the Academy. Another gold medal was sent by the Board of Public Charity."

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SPACE forbids us to quote more, but we advise our readers to procure this issue of the *Star*, and to read and preserve the record of a life so fragrant with good works, and one which we rejoice to know is linked with the Nursing profession.

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THE staff of the Ceylon Nursing Association are kept very fully occupied, so much so that at one time it was necessary constantly to procure help from outside. To meet this difficulty the Honorary Secretary obtained the consent of the colonel of the regiment stationed in Colombo to the employment of regimental sick orderlies when required. It is stated that this step has proved a most satisfactory one, and that the orderlies have proved the greatest boon in many cases, especially in bachelors' bungalows, where it is sometimes difficult to arrange things comfortably for a nurse. The Honorary Secretary of the Association is Mrs. Pole Carew, to whom the Association owes much; the matron is Miss Shankland. New wards have been added to the Home, and furnished, as the Ceylon Diamond Jubilee Memorial, and it may be hoped that the Association has a career of much useful work before it.

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