

AIDE-TOI, LE CIEL T'AIDERA.

MR. CHARLES WYNDHAM, in presiding at the Annual Meeting of the Actors' Association, was able to make the pleasing announcement that there were 1,669 members on the register for 1898, and not one subscription was unpaid. There was £382 1s. 9d. standing to the credit of the Association. Mr. Wyndham advocated the amalgamation of solid associations in the theatrical profession, so that with self-imposed taxation they might dispense with begging altogether.

In strong contrast to this self-respecting attitude is that which is adopted by the present management of the Royal British Nurses' Association. Those members of this Association who value their professional status will learn with a thrill of shame that they are to be held up in *formâ pauperis*, as objects of charity, at a Café Chantant at the Hotel Cecil. The gathering, under the presidency and patronage of Princess Christian, so we are informed, will be an informal one of prominent ladies and gentlemen of society, tickets will be a guinea each, and the proceeds will be devoted to the furtherance of the objects of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

How different from the early days of the Association, when the members—combined for mutual counsel, comfort, and support, and under good management—saved in the first five years of their corporate existence no less a sum than £1,000. There was no going round with the hat in those days. But now, in the present deplorable state of things, the Association is constantly held up to the public as an object of charity. We can only suppose that this is one more step on the downward grade in the policy of the systematic depreciation of the Nursing Profession. Will the next step downward be a ballet at the Empire?

We fully believe that the ladies and gentlemen who are organizing this "benefit" are doing so with the kindest motives, but they will understand from the attitude of Mr. Charles Wyndham—an attitude with which we know leading members of the theatrical profession are in sympathy—the feeling of self-respecting members of the nursing profession. The truest kindness to nurses is to make them help themselves.

HOSPITAL DECORATION.

THE question of hospital decoration is one which is receiving attention in the daily press, and it is suggested in a contemporary that some

of our leading artists might be approached and invited to employ their talents in decorating the walls of our hospitals. We should, however, strongly deprecate the introduction into our hospital wards of valuable pictures which must be preserved, and which cannot be submitted to the cleaning and scrubbing processes to which every inch of a hospital should be frequently and rigidly subjected. The ideal form of mural decoration for hospitals is, undoubtedly, to be found in tiles, which may be of harmonious colours, and which can be washed with impunity. If by the kindness of special donors, the tiles can further be arranged as pictures, nothing could be more delightful; but the expense of this form of decoration precludes its adoption, except as a special gift. Any one who desires to see how charming is the effect of picture tiles, cannot do better than visit the Children's Hospital, Paddington Green, where the walls of one ward are decorated by tiles illustrating various nursery rhymes.

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCIES.

THE Governors of the Leicester Infirmary recently met to appoint an honorary Chaplain to that institution. Considerable discussion ensued and the meeting was eventually adjourned, owing to the protest of Nonconformists that no arrangement would be satisfactory under which the claims of Free Churchmen remained unrecognized. We are of opinion that the fullest liberty should be allowed to ministers of all denominations to visit those of their people who may be patients in the Infirmary, and that it should be made easy for all patients to send for any minister whom they may wish to see. This is, we believe, the practice in most hospitals, and should be universal. But, beyond such patients, there are always a considerable number, who are unaccustomed to attend any place of worship, and who would not trouble to send for any religious teacher, although his ministrations might nevertheless be of considerable benefit. Further, there are the public services in the wards to be thought of, and we do not think that it would be conducive to the benefit of anyone that these should be conducted by various sects in turn. At any rate, inasmuch as the great majority of English men and women are avowedly members of the Church of England, it would seem reasonable that those patients who are not otherwise provided for, should be ministered to by a representative of the national church.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)