

ALL old "London" Nurses knew and respected "Sister Buxton." She was "a pillar of the house" in the seventies in our day, and her resignation of the position which she has held for 33 years as Sister of the children's medical ward, will be a matter of regret to many. Sister Buxton has had a long and honourable connection with the London Hospital, having there seen upwards of 37 years' service, and shown great devotion to duty during those years. Always full of dignified kindness, a woman of few words and prompt action, the hospital loses a most valuable official, and the nurses a fine example by the departure of this able Sister. But structural alterations in the hospital necessitate the removal of the children from their pretty ward over which Sister has presided so long, so that the present time seemed good to her, to take that rest to which her long and honourable career entitles her. Perhaps, now Sister Buxton's old friends may see more of her, than when she was in harness; anyway, she leaves the London with warm, good wishes of friends old and new.

* * *

WE are glad to read a letter, in the *Times*, from Miss Honor Morten, supporting our views constantly expressed in this journal, that the Committee of the Prince of Wales' Fund is in no way representative nor efficient, so long as it excludes women from its Committees, especially in relation to the inspection of hospitals. We do not hesitate to say that some of these so-called inspections by well-meaning old gentlemen are impotent in the extreme, so far as the interests of the nurses are concerned.

* * *

THE resignation of Miss Adam, the Lady Superintendent of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, draws attention to the heartburnings which were the result of that lady's version to the Church of Rome some years ago. The Board of Management of the institution were undoubtedly placed in a position of some difficulty when this occurred. They had to consider, in the first place, whether they were justified in dismissing a Matron who was a thoroughly capable official, on purely religious grounds. Again, they were between Scylla and Charybdis with the Roman Catholic subscribers on the one hand, and the alarmed Protestants on the other. They acted we think rightly, and wisely, in retaining the services of their Lady Superintendent, but Miss Adam's resignation has, undoubtedly, freed them from a somewhat embarrassing position.

* * *

WE are always in favour of religious toleration. At the same time, we must admit that so long

as we have a State Church, and the majority of people belong to that Church, so long as the Chaplains of our hospitals are those of the Established Church, and the prayers used in the wards are taken from the Prayer Book, things are certainly more likely to work harmoniously when the Matrons of these institutions are member of the Church of the Country.

* * *

AGAIN, in the case of a Roman Catholic, it must be remembered that her religious creed makes proselytism almost a necessity. The English Church recognizes all churches having apostolical succession as branches of the "Holy Catholic Church," and, in its wise and kindly toleration, while firmly holding that in the Church are found the appointed means of grace, it yet believes that the Divine Head, who instituted the sacraments administered by the Church as the ordinary channels of spiritual life, can if He so wills, work outside the means which He Himself has appointed. It recognizes that amongst Non-conformists there is frequently evidence of personal holiness, and while regretting that these persons have dissociated themselves from the Church, it does not, therefore, believe that all such are necessarily "damned."

* * *

THE Church of Rome has no such charitable beliefs. It believes itself to be the true and only Church. Those who die in communion with it are saved, those who die outside it are lost. The only conceivable position, therefore, for a sincere Roman is that of a proselytizer. She possesses the one saving faith. If she believes this, she must try to bring others to a knowledge of it also. If she holds her peace, from motives of expediency, then she is untrue to her religious convictions. It seems, therefore, that the position of a Roman Catholic Matron, in an institution supported by persons of various religious beliefs, is one of extreme difficulty, if not of impossibility. The Church of Rome must relinquish its position of autocratic and narrow dogmatism before its members can be considered desirable as Hospital Matrons by Boards of Management. We fear, however, that there is no immediate prospect of this. The greatest obstacle in the way of the Re-union of Christendom is the church which claims to be the sole representative of Christianity.

* * *

THE question as to how the hands of surgeons and nurses are most effectively cleansed, prior to operations, is one of considerable importance, and rightly demands considerable attention. It is discussed at length in an interesting letter in the *British Medical Journal* by Mr. Fred. Edge, Surgeon to the Women's Hospital, Birmingham,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)