

THE examination papers set to the first and third year probationers at the Lewisham Infirmary show that the standard of theoretical knowledge demanded is a sound one. Amongst the questions set to the probationers at the end of their first year are:—"Give the names and describe the principal arteries of the body," "Describe fully the bones of the lower extremity," "Give an account of the nursing points of any acute case you have recently nursed." The examiner was Dr. Toogood, D.P.H., Medical Superintendent to the Hospital, and Lecturer to the Training School for Nurses.

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SOME of the questions set to the third year nurses were:—"What are the signs of death?" "Describe the symptoms that are usually present in a case of Enteric Fever during the third week." "Describe as fully as you can the Bony Pelvis." "Describe the condition of a patient suffering from shock." "How would you prepare a bed for a case of (a) Fracture of the Skull, (b) Fracture of Spine, (c) Fracture of Thigh, (d) Epilepsy, (e) Chorea, (f) Paraplegia." The examiners were Dr. J. Rose Bradford, F.R.C.P., F.R.S., Physician to University College Hospital, and Dr. Toogood.

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It is an excellent custom, on the part of hospital and infirmary authorities, to invite examiners unconnected with the institution to help to conduct the examination. Perhaps the day will come when the progressive officers of the Lewisham Infirmary will invite not only a medical man to aid them, but also the Superintendent of a Training School to examine in practical nursing. Someone must institute the custom. Why should not Lewisham Infirmary have the honour of it?

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ON Thursday, the 27th ult., in the presence of fifty visitors, the entertainment at the Kidderminster Infirmary and Children's Hospital began at 3 o'clock by the distribution from the Christmas tree, when all the patients received many gifts, such as brackets, boxes, frames, scissors, candlesticks, work-bags, etc., for the grown-ups, and toys for the children. This was followed by a sumptuous tea, which was much appreciated. A stage had been erected, and a very good performance was gone through. Violin solos, songs, and duets, were given by Miss Broone, Miss Brinton, Miss Macdonald, Rev. A. Perowne, Rev. C. Isherwood, and two short plays, "Cross Questions and Crooked Answers," and "A Perfect Cure," were admirably acted by the Hon. Stuart, the Hon. Tracey, the Hon. Edith, and the Hon. Dorothy Packington, sons and daughters of Lord and Lady Hampton. The whole was over by 6 o'clock, and was thoroughly enjoyed by

the visitors, as well as by the patients and nursing staff. It may be mentioned that these Christmas gifts and pleasures are subscribed for and given by many kind friends of the Infirmary.

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WE regret that pressure upon our space prevents our recording the many accounts of hospital festivities which have come to hand. In all it is evident that the greatest unanimity and good will prevailed, the one desire of Matrons, Sisters, Nurses, Medical Staff and Students alike being to make the season a red-letter one in the annals of the patients.

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WE own to some sympathy with the West Bromwich Guardians in their treatment by Miss E. Skinner. This nurse entered their service, and in a fortnight wrote for her testimonials "as she had accepted a higher post." The Clerk pointed out that the nurse ought not to leave without a month's notice, and thought that, in the public interest, such a breach of faith ought to be stopped. It was decided to claim from Miss Skinner a month's salary in lieu of notice. We have constant complaints from those dealing with nurses, that they have little respect for a contract. This is a somewhat discreditable condition of affairs if true.

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*The Diamond Fields Advertiser*, in its Christmas number, remarks that during the war many opportunities have been afforded for exercising the noble virtues of bravery and self-sacrifice; and that for the untiring devotion of the Sisters of Nazareth at Kimberley towards the sick and wounded the most heartfelt gratitude is everywhere expressed. The care bestowed by the Sisters on their patients is most clearly shown by the remarkably low death rate among the men accommodated at their convent. Out of three hundred sick and wounded nursed by them only three died. Sir W. MacCormac paid the following warm tribute to their courage and devotion: "On the arrival of the sick and wounded a military hospital was in readiness, prepared by the Sisters of Nazareth, who occupy a pleasantly situated and conveniently arranged building which had been placed at the disposal of the military authorities. It was soon equipped with everything requisite for a hospital, and the Sisters themselves gratefully accepted the nursing duties. On the stairway of this house stand the fragments of a burst shell, which fell in the convent garden during the siege, the only present evidence of what this kind sisterhood had passed through." The Presbyterian chaplain to the forces also paid tribute to the work done by the Sisters, declaring their hospital to be one of the best he had ever seen.

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