

*z.e.*, the Memphis School for Trained Nurses—has just graduated its first class. This particular Institution is spoken of with quite affectionate favour throughout the States.

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If there is one body more than another deserving of recognition, it is that of Nurses, who are called upon at all times and under all conditions, to undertake their varied, arduous, and oftentimes risky duties; therefore it is particularly pleasing to be able to note that the Chairman of the Committee of Birmingham General Hospital, Mr. Joseph Barrow, jun., recently presented some twenty Nurses with medals in the shape of Maltese crosses, marked G. H. B., and manufactured by Messrs Prince and Son of that town. The medals were awarded to those Nurses who had, without any complaint having been made against them, served the institution for three years and upwards. It is gratifying to note that some of the recipients had been in the Hospital's service for no less than eighteen years. S. G.

### THREE INCIDENTS.—No. 1.

BY E. BUXTON, EASTNEVE, WARE.

I HAVE arrived at a Hospital, this afternoon, and in half-an-hour am downstairs, in cap and apron, among the patients in my Ward. Eight of them are put under my special charge by the Sister, who has taken me round from bed to bed.

Soon, as I walk up the Ward, I find myself wondering whether I am mother enough to undertake and to meet the bodily as well as the heart needs of all these of whom I am put in charge. They all look at me—taking my measure—and see only a slim, countrified girl. I pass up the Ward, thinking of my mother and my home, and fearing yet the revelations that will be made to me in regard to these sick ones. While they are entrusted to me, will they suffer? Will they die? Through the weary days, shall I know how to help and to speak with them? Will they find in me a real comforter, with a mother's care?

I have reached the further end of the Ward. The other Nurses are gone, and I am alone—the only one of sixteen out of bed. A sweet voice reaches me from the other side, and I turn to look towards a row of beds to which my attention has not yet been called. A child is calling, "Nursie." Oh, it is a child! Is she only in a fretful mood? Is she only wanting to catch my attention, and to hear me speak? Does she require to be moved or lifted? or is she, as more likely, wanting to ask

the new Nurse some terrible question, with infinite trust in the word of the Nurse? My heart sinks at hearing that voice again, "Nursie, come!" I dread the visit to that strange bedside, for the child is not under my care, and every moment as I go seems long. I find myself nearing the foot of the bed. I see a lovely child, with dark hair, lying flat in bed with no pillow, and as I bend over, I feel two little arms clasped right round my neck, which draw me down close to herself, and I look into a pair of loveliest violet eyes, with long dark eyelashes, a string of crimson beads round her bare neck, and it is softly whispered to me, "Oh, Nursie!—do you know—I have got on a clean nightgown!"

"Have you, dear?" I left the bed, able again to breathe, glad to hide from my new little friend the tears of intense relief.

### HOSPITAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE high death rate of Preston is attracting—as it always has attracted—very considerable attention, both in the town and out of it; for it cannot be pleasant for the inhabitants of that town to always head, as it appears to do, the Registrar-General's mortality list. There are various suggestions put forward for the purpose of ameliorating this sad condition of things, but beyond these suggestions "nothing gets no forrarder."

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LAST Thursday there was a very large meeting held of the Town Council, when this important subject very properly—as it certainly should do—received a very considerable amount of consideration, in the hope of some decided and prompt action being taken to improve the unenviable state of things.

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ALDERMAN SATTERTHWAITE, among other things, said that: "All who had read the Doctor's report would notice that in referring to the excessive mortality from diarrhoea he intimated that he had made some inquiries into the circumstances of several of these deaths. He had some of those returns before him. They were taken from the mortality during the past four weeks, and the Doctor's inquiries extended over forty-six cases, and he found that of those forty-six, thirty-seven were under twelve months old and nine over twelve months. Taking the mortality, he found deaths occurring in English families forty-one, Irish three, English and Irish—one parent each—two. With reference to the feeding of the poor children who died, it seemed that only five were fed from the breast; those from the breast and other food, nine; while eighteen were living on

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