

Rev. R. A. White, Dr. A. H. Jones, Rev. T. C. Beasley, Dr. Evans, Rev. Du Boulay (East Haddon), Rev. R. M. L. Featherstone."

I AM glad to see that Miss Wood by this plan of campaigning the provinces is gradually, but surely, breaking down the prejudice and ignorance which prevails in connection with Nursing, such prejudice and ignorance being encouraged, I regret to say, in certain quarters where one would at least expect a charitable and sensible silence in the complete absence of facts which such opponents very carefully omit to bring forward in support of their allegations. S. G.

### OUR CHRISTMAS DOUBLE NUMBER.

THE above Number will be ready on Monday, December 23, and will contain many new and special readable features, besides various illustrations, &c., and should altogether prove very interesting. Those of our readers who require *extra* copies, for distribution among their friends at home or abroad, should send in their names and requirements with postal orders as early as possible (price twopence per copy).

To our advertisers—the larger ones—we must ask them to kindly let us have their orders not later than the 18th, as we cannot *guarantee* insertion after that date, as it should be remembered that in our last Christmas Number every available inch of space in our advertising columns was occupied, and that since that time the circulation of the *Nursing Record* has more than doubled itself.

### WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

#### THE DRESSMAKER.

THIS is emphatically women's work, even though tailor-made garments have become the fashion of late years. Now that dressmaking has become one of the "fine arts," many ladies have sought, either because of pecuniary difficulties or from sheer love of caprice, the ranks of those who "clothe the naked" in return for £ s. d. Of the latter class is Lady Morell Mackenzie, who has lately started a dressmaking alliance. The Society of Associated Artistes (the founder of which is a lady well-known by name in artistic circles) has proved—though but comparatively a new undertaking—most successful, as its recent removal into larger premises testifies. The promoters propose working on the co-operative system. There is a technical training school for gentlewomen, in connection with the society, for teaching dressmaking, millinery and embroidery, and also lessons are given to lady

amateurs on very moderate terms. These are not as a rule given in a class, as individual attention is found to be necessary for any rapid progress. Every part of the art of dressmaking is carefully taught. The Scientific Dress-cutting Association charge for a diploma £12 12s.; average time for learning, six months. A lady known as Grace and Co. (address Albany House, 259, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W.) qualifies ladies in cutting, fitting and making up dresses; and also gives employment to those fully qualified in their own homes. The premium asked by dressmakers for beginners varies from £20 to £150, according to the position and standing of the firm. The plums of the business are, to my mind, to be found in the position of head of the dressmaking departments of our larger drapers' establishments. Only experts are chosen for the post, which is always well paid; whilst there is another consideration—there is no fear of that bugbear of "my own" business, bad debts, nor is there any large outlay of money needed as in the case of "setting up" for oneself. Ladies by education and birth, and of genteel manners, are naturally preferred both by employers and customers. The "hands" are badly paid, even those who have been already apprenticed to the trade, even by the largest and best known firms—not more than 10s. to 15s., and this without board. Unfortunately, like most employments for the fair sex, this branch is overstocked; though I heard from a dressmaker lately that she had had great difficulty in getting a really good bodice finisher. So many applied, she complained, who were utterly incompetent. As usual there is room "at the top," and plenty of work for skilled women.

MANY a young dressmaker has found a friend in need in the shape of one of Mr. John Shrimpton's charming "Homes for Working Girls." The amount of good and silent work of this "benevolent angel" of the unbefriended is but too little known. There are several of these Homes in various parts of the Metropolis, containing altogether accommodation for five hundred and two residents. The charity is, after the preliminaries of obtaining premises, re-arranging, &c., nearly self-supporting. The girls are given a cubicle and full board for from seven shillings a week. The obtaining provisions in large quantities enables the superintendent to place before the inmates a better *menu* than they could otherwise possibly obtain. There is also a carefully chosen matron to act as mother in each Home, and a comfortable sitting-room where Sunday can be spent if wet, beside many other advantages. The members are limited, and the Homes are indeed real homes in every sense of the word. Any further informa-

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