

The spirit of fun pervades our hospitals at Christmas time, and it would be an ill day for the patients should this be curtailed; but it is necessary to remember always that the merriment is essentially for the sake of the patients and should stop at midnight junketings, which, though perhaps harmless, are quite out of place on the part of students and nurses. We have heard of undesirable proceedings in more than one quarter. It is always regrettable when the restraint and dignity which should characterise the conduct of a public official are forgotten. It is stated that one of the junior surgeons and some of the students and nurses at one of the large metropolitan training-schools have been summoned before the Board and been severely admonished for allowing their high spirits to get the better of their sense of the fitness of things. There were high jinks in the ward kitchen at midnight on Christmas Day, which were discovered and reported by a senior official. The result was an explanation and an unpleasant half-hour in the Board Room for those concerned, and the night nurses involved have now been put on day duty.

The last issue of the *Medical Press* accords its "ready sympathy" to the movement for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and offers some useful suggestions in regard to the Bill drawn up by the Society formed to obtain it. The first is that some attempt should be made to define the word "nurse," on the ground that, while to the medical and nursing world it conveys a specific meaning, to the public a nurse is a person who lives in the nursery and looks after the children. The person who looks after them when they are ill is a "hospital nurse." Therefore, our contemporary thinks the word "nurse" should be defined, and its scope limited, or the words "of the sick" should be added in brackets.

The next point which is dealt with is the constitution of the Council, and is significant as a warning from a medical organ. "Let them" (the framers of the Act) "take warning from the condition of the General Medical Council, and be chary as to how far they secure representation for privileged bodies. Why should not the seats be filled by representatives of the people who pay for its support—the nurses themselves?"

Another point is that the misconduct for which a nurse's name may be struck off the Register should be specified. No doubt these friendly criticisms will be taken into consideration by the meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses which we announce in another column.

Sir Henry Burdett in his paper last week gives a most inaccurate account of the two Bills for the

Registration of Trained Nurses which are now before the nursing world and the public. He has always been the active wire-puller of the Anti-Registration Party, and his paper has persistently opposed the principle. Nothing is more certain than that this principle is now accepted, that the whole body of nurses desire legal status, and that it is within measurable distance of enforcement. Yet Sir Henry Burdett is still so much out of touch with modern professional feeling that he even now asserts that "Registration, if not mischievous, is quite valueless."

Nurses go through some strange experiences in the course of their work, but that of the nursing staff in one of the wards at the London Hospital recently is, fortunately, exceptional. As a rule parents are most appreciative of all that is done for their children, but in this instance the father of a child flourished a revolver in the ward, frightening the nurses and patients. At the inquest which followed the death of the child, the medical evidence showed that the case was one of gross criminal neglect, and that when the parents visited the ward they were nearly always intoxicated.

The managers of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, have introduced several changes in the working of the nursing department during the past year, the principal of these being (1) the abolition of the practice of taking nurses for a two years' course of training only, so that all nurses must now go through a three years' curriculum; (2) the dividing up of the one year's service on night duty into two periods of six months each, with an interval of at least six months' day duty; and (3) a system of preliminary examination for candidates. All these changes make for progress, although we consider six months at a stretch on night duty far too long. As one hospital after another comes into line on the question of three years' training, we get nearer to the adoption of a uniform standard. Indeed, the three years' curriculum is practically accepted, the London Hospital being the only important institution which still stands aloof.

A series of Special Services for Nurses have been arranged in St. Andrew's Church, Dublin, on the first Tuesday in January, February, and March. Similar services, held in the same church during the past three winters, were well attended, and were much appreciated by those for whose benefit they were arranged. The Most Rev. the Lord Bishop of Meath preached at the first of the services this month. The collection was given to the fund for the proposed Queen's Nurses' Convalescent Home for Sick Children. All trained nurses and probationers and their friends were invited to attend.

A pretty and authentic story attaching to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, is reproduced in the *Charity Record* :—

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