

myself in the Bishop's house in Bloemfontein (given up for sick Sisters) with enteric. This ended my experiences in South Africa, and I was invalided home a few weeks after.

The last of my recollections is a morning in the Marlborough House Gardens, when 150 Sisters received their medals from His Majesty the King. While waiting, a very newly-appointed Army Sister carefully explained to some of us that, as civilians we must not wear our medals. Near me was a bright Colonial Sister, equal as her people usually are, to a retort, and her indignant "What do you suppose we get them for, to put them in our drawers?" raised a general laugh. So did also the pathetic appeal of a well-known General: "Ladies, ladies, will you kindly keep your ranks, His Majesty will not scold you, but he will be very angry with me if there is any confusion." We all passed by with great satisfaction to ourselves if not to the General, and we hope, to their Majesties' too, for an order was sent, we were to march past a second time, which made us think they were not displeased with us.

If any of the Sisters, army or civilian, with whom I worked happen to read this, I send them hearty greetings—not forgetting the Canadian Sister who wrote her reports in verse, or the little Australian Sister, commonly known as the Kangaroo, or the much-loved Sister of typhoid fame, both in Smithfield and Naupoort, and last, but not least, the lady of the embroidered collar and bright red shoes.—E. R.

Ceremony at St. Bartholomew the Great.

The ceremony at the old city church on Saturday was simple and stately; long before the appointed time crowds of those interested in the restoration of Rahere's Priory Church filled the sacred place. The Lord Mayor entered at 2.30, leading the Lady Mayoress and followed by the Aldermen and other city dignitaries wearing their crimson robes of office. The Bishop of London gave an eloquent address on *Praise*. He wore a jewelled mitre and cope, and was preceded by the pastoral staff on each journey from his Throne in the Sacrarium. Only three short prayers were used in the dedication of the cloister, which will probably be used as a choir vestry. Canon Benham and many city clergy were in the procession. Tea and coffee were served in the schools, where the good Bishop gave some excellent advice to his grown-up children. Sisters Hope, President, Mark and Abernethy, from St. Bartholomew's near by, in their blue linen gowns, were quickly recognised—there were many nurses and probationers also present. Rare arum lilies decorated the altar, and with chrysanthemums graced Rahere's Tomb. The proceedings concluded with a short lecture on the ancient edifice.

Progress of State Registration.

The Executive Committee of the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses will meet at 431, Oxford Street, on Tuesday, December 12th, to consider the Report of the Bill Sub-Committee, and the suggested alterations in the Bill. New members will also be elected, so that those nurses who wish to help forward the movement should send in their applications before that date.

The Association of Poor Law Unions of England and Wales which recently held its annual meeting in London, had many important subjects under consideration. Its action on State Registration of Nurses was quite characteristic of the employer when dealing with the matters of the employed.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The General Purposes and Finance Committee which had considered the Report of the Select Committee on the Registration of Nurses and approved the majority of the recommendations, reported some decisions on various of its clauses:—

(1) The General Purposes Committee, while recognising that registration might improve the status of nurses, are of opinion that any Act of Parliament for such registration should contain full provision for the recognition of training-schools attached to Poor Law infirmaries, and that what is to constitute a recognised training-school for nurses should be defined so that persons trained in Poor Law training-schools in which the statutory requirements are complied with, should be able to claim the right of sitting for the examinations referred to in paragraph 6, and that the designation "registered nurse" should be deferred until after the issue of the Nursing Order, which Mr. Gerald Balfour stated that he hoped would be issued before the end of the current year. (The last recommendation from the Local Government Board proposed the creation of "the qualified nurse" after one year's training in workhouse wards.)

(2) The Committee proposed to insert the words "of recognised institutions" after the word "Matrons" to compose the Central Nursing Council.

(3) The Committee were of opinion, as previously mentioned, that it should not be left to the Central Body to decide what constitutes a recognised training-school for nurses, but that this should be fixed by Act of Parliament. They were also of opinion that the examinations should not be held by the training-school, but at convenient centres (not

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)