

the small size of the modern chimney, Little Red Riding Hood visiting her grandmother, which held one entranced, it was so beautifully presented. Another charming model was that of the Babes in the Wood, with kind robins giving them leafy burial. The evening closed in the wards with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne," visitors and patients, Matron, sisters, and nurses all joining hands and singing with a will to the memory of days that are past and gone.

A certificated nurse in an article in the *Daily Mirror*, deals with quack nurses and their ways, and supports the demand for State Registration. She says, "one might wonder if all the London hospitals are closed down and the nurses given a day off—there are so many about," and proceeds to quote the matron of a large hospital who points out that "The cowl does not make the monk, nor the uniform the nurse, though the public seems to think it does. We get to dislike the uniform; it is copied and dragged about so much. Parish workers and Bible-women wear it and others not so respected." The writer of the article has a word to say about nurses' manners. "Many a man has got reputation and a good practice too by adopting a gruff tone and an abrupt way of speaking. I have never seen it succeed in a nurse—unless indeed she can do it with a broad Scotch accent." She is careful to point out that "State Registrationists wage no war against the amiable amateur," but that "at present it is in the lottery which they will get—the skilled nurse who will know her work, who will second the doctor's plan, and strain every nerve on behalf of the patient, or the amiable amateur who will conciliate his friends by letting them work their will on the unhappy invalid. She knows no better, and there are many women who like to dabble in home-nursing, no matter how much Nature has unfitted them for it."

At an inquest at Hackney concerning the death of a patient who died in the infirmary from injuries received from falling out of bed, the ward nurse said that she was on duty from 7.30 p.m. until 8 the next morning. The jury, who inquired the nurse's age, said that they considered the hours too long for one of her age, and asked the coroner, Dr. Wynn Westcott, to represent it in the proper quarter. This he declined to do, and informed the jury that "the nurse would be resting the best part of her time on duty." We wonder if many people share Dr. Westcott's idea of night duty in

a ward containing thirty patients. It would be rudely dispelled by a little practical experience. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death," and recommended that no nurse should be kept on duty all night in a ward with thirty beds without assistance, or that the hours should be shortened.

We are glad to see attention called to nurses' hours on duty. To men accustomed to an eight hours' day the time, no doubt, seems excessive. Nurses accustomed for many years to long hours take them much as a matter of course, and certainly much has been done during the last quarter of a century in the best hospitals and infirmaries not only to decrease their hours on duty, but to improve the conditions under which they work, but there is still much to be done in this direction.

Take the case of the Northallerton Infirmary, where the Guardians recently passed a resolution dispensing with the night attendant in the infirmary on the ground that the services of this official were not required. The following extract from a letter from Dr. J. A. Hutchinson, the Medical Officer, to the Chairman of the Board of Guardians, shows the position of affairs. He writes: "It is made to appear from the remarks of certain Guardians that a night attendant for the infirmary involves unnecessary expense, which ought to be saved. On November 13th I made the following entry in the indoor medical relief book:—'Several of the infirmary inmates are so infirm and helpless that I do not think they should be left at night without an attendant not necessarily a nurse.' Notwithstanding this, however, and without communicating with the Medical Officer, the Board resolved that the night attendant be dispensed with, as the matron and nurse were sufficient. The matron and nurse are not sufficient. Both are at work all day, and require to rest at night, like other people."

He then enumerated the serious cases contained in the four wards, and continues: "The nursing is well done, both matron and nurse are kind, attentive and efficient. In the absence of a night attendant, however, the patients must be left entirely to themselves, with no one at hand to render any necessary service or fetch the nurse in case of need. To leave these poor people unattended during the long hours of the night in an infirmary provided and managed by Guardians of the Poor would be grievous neglect, and it shall not be done without an official protest by me."

Too often Boards of Guardians and Committees of small hospitals fail to realise that

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