

porch over the entrance, composed of roses and butterflies. In Gould Ward, besides the Christmas tree, a very artistic effect was seen in the decorative design here, which was to represent an old garden, the principal bloom represented being clematis, with the lamp shades to correspond in colour. All the flowers had been made by the patients themselves, assisted by friends outside, the pattern and design having been taken from the original flower in the summer. Weaver Ward was principally decorated to represent the rambler rose, with a very choicely designed porch at the entrance, with the roses creeping around in quite a realistic style. Liddon Ward, in which the children are located, was tastefully adorned with pink carnations and chrysanthemums. On a sideboard in this ward was a very cleverly executed representation of a winter scene, with a doll's house representing a dwelling partly snowed up, with wooden dolls to indicate the inmates. This was a very suitable kind of decoration for this ward, appealing as it did to the children's fancy.

Sister Agnes Karll, President-elect of the International Council of Nurses, sends greetings and kindest wishes for a Happy New Year to all "my dear British friends," whom she hopes to meet again in London next July. Sister Karll has not yet entirely regained her strength since her serious operation, and is now at Bordighera "trying hard to get new strength for my work and London." She writes:—"Your journal comes to me in my exile in this beautiful place, and so I know always all you are doing, and my heart is full of joy about your brave battle for Registration."

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses will be held at the office, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., on Saturday, 16th inst., to outline the Programme of the International Congress on Nursing. Time spins away at such a rate that July 19th will be here in a flash, and no end of organisation is necessary to make our meeting the great success its predecessors have been.

In the current issue of *Nurses Near and Far* some wise and kindly words of Miss Fox, Matron of the Prince of Wales' Hospital, Tottenham, on "The Responsibility of a Senior Nurse towards other Nurses, and especially towards Probationers," are published. She advises nurses to cultivate "the grace of collegueship," and notes especially that there is often a strange want of kindly feeling and loyalty between day and night nurses, and hence a good deal of friction. She asserts that

nurses can do more than the Matron in maintaining a good tone in the hospital; the opinion of one's contemporaries is never to be despised.

In regard to probationers, Miss Fox points out that the responsibility for moulding this human material rests largely upon the nurses: "they have the task of laying the foundations of steady work; they must teach the probationers with patience, tact, and kindness, and draw out the best that is in them. Some Sisters and nurses will not learn to teach, and say 'it takes twice as long to show anyone as to do it ourselves,' and other stock phrases. They then tell a probationer to do something without giving proper instructions, and blame her for stupidity and incompetence." Miss Fox also bids all Sisters and nurses to beware of favouritism. "Even-handed justice must be dispensed from an ethical sense of right, without respect of persons. It is a hard lesson for all in authority to learn to 'deal justly'; much harder than to 'love mercy,' but justice will be appreciated."

At a recent inquest concerning the death of an infant, who had previously been treated at the Battersea Anti-Vivisection Hospital, for an injury to the head caused by a pickaxe, and who afterwards was admitted to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where she died of septic meningitis, and was found to have a fractured skull, it transpired that at the Anti-Vivisection Hospital the child's head was stitched by the Nurse-in-charge, and, according to the evidence, the relatives were told on the following day, by the nurse, that it would not be necessary to bring the child again. The Resident Medical Officer at the hospital, Dr. Da Costa, stated in his evidence that the "wound was stitched by a nurse in his presence, and treated antiseptically." The nurse, of course, is not to blame if she put in the stitches in the presence, and by the direction, of the medical officer, but we must protest against the stitching of wounds being regarded as included in the routine duty of nurses, as appears to be the case in this hospital. In an emergency abroad, or away from medical aid, a nurse would, of course, be justified in undertaking this, but, in a well organised hospital, the medical staff should be sufficient to perform the medical work.

Miss Foster Newton, writing with reference to her remarks at the last meeting of the Richmond Board of Guardians in regard to preference being given to total abstainers in the appointment of new nurses, says:—"I find that my remarks have given some pain to our pre-

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