

girl dressed like a fairy, and, with the help of one of the doctors and a long stick, handed a present to each patient. All the women, even the grandmothers as well as the smallest child, exclaimed: "Arteeny arrouce" (Give me a doll—lit., bride). Everyone was more than satisfied, and still the fête was not at an end. Downstairs in the men's large ward one of the native teachers was giving the men, and some of the women who were well enough to go down to it, a lantern lecture on "The Pilgrim's Progress." When Christian appeared with his burden on his back, a woman exclaimed: "Ya ageeby!" (how wonderful!). "A man with a burden on his back! Is it like that in England?" Here women and donkeys bear the burdens."

When the festivities were at an end and all the patients comfortably settled for the night, I ran round the wards to hear if everybody had spent a really happy day. The general answer was, "Gueteer mabsoota" (very happy)—the men with their new pocket handkerchiefs and boxes of titten (tobacco), the women and children almost asleep with their dolls in their arms. Only from one bed came a sound almost like a sob; it was the English sailor boy. "What, Bobby," I asked. "Have you not had a happy Christmas?" "Oh, yes, Sister," he replied; "very, and (sobbing again) I'll soon—be back in Liverpool again, and grandmother will ha' saved me a bit o' Christmas puddin'."

Jaffa.

SISTER MARIE.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

- 1st January.—Puzzles Competition, £1 ls.
 15th January.—Practical Point, not to exceed 200 words, 5s.
 22nd January.—"The Neatest Nurse" photographs. The photograph which gains the prize will be reproduced, 10s.
 29th January.—Article on a Practical Nursing Subject, 1,500 words; illustrations admissible, £1 10s.

Rules for the Competitions will appear in our issue of January 1st, 1910.

NURSES' PENSION SCHEME.

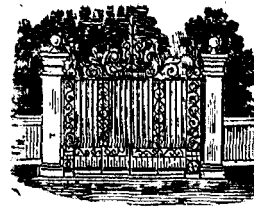
We desire to draw the attention of our readers to a notice which appears in our advertisement columns on page xi., in reference to a scheme whereby they can secure a pension at a certain age, continuing for life. Those who desire further information on the subject should write to Seymour and Knowles, St. Stephen's House, Westminster.

ROCLA

Many nurses will, we believe, be glad to have their notice directed to a pure natural mineral tonic, known as "Rocla," which is obtained from a spring in Northern Italy. It is prescribed both for invalids and convalescents, and is highly valued by Italians. Nurses who desire to become acquainted with "Rocla" can obtain a sample, and all information, by writing to "Rocla" Natural Tonic Co., Ltd., 69, Edgware Road, London, W.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



The National Society of Day Nurseries was founded in 1906 for the establishment, support, and proper regulation of day nurseries all over the United Kingdom. Lady Helmsley, the Chairman of Council, when speaking recently on the work of the Society, said: "It is a matter of common knowledge that every day many thousands of poor, hard-working mothers are compelled to leave their children to earn their daily bread away from home. In a great many instances this means that the helpless little mites are handed over to the tender mercies of some ignorant person whose sole desire is to collect as many sixpences or eight pennies per day as she can by crowding her squalid room with children. Actual starving and drugging of the poor babies are not the least of the evils that befall them. If any justification were needed of the establishment of day nurseries it might be found in the fact that in England alone above 940,000 babies are born every year, of which number 120,000 die before they become twelve months old." Every encouragement is given by the Society to crèches already established to keep up a certain standard of efficiency. Regular inspection is made. The mothers are instructed in the care and rearing of their children. The work that this Society is undertaking is urgently called for in hundreds of manufacturing centres. Want of funds alone prevents its wide and immediate extension. Contributions will be gratefully acknowledged by the Secretary, Mr. Herbert H. Jennings, at the Society's Office, 1, Sydney Street, Fulham Road, S.W.

In consequence of the recent decision of the Board of Management of the Royal Infirmary, Manchester, a Committee has been formed with the object of securing the admission of qualified women to resident posts in the Infirmary. The Committee consists, at present, of representatives of the Manchester Association of the Federation of University Women, the Manchester Association of Registered Medical Women, the National Union of Women Workers, the Women's Local Government Association, the Women's Trade Union Council, the Women's Co-operative Guild, and a number of influential Manchester men and women. The Executive of this Committee has through the press brought its existence to the notice of the Manchester public, and invited all who disapprove of the policy laid down by the Management of the Infirmary in this matter to join the Committee.

Councillor Margaret Ashton hopes that the action of the Infirmary Board will raise the whole question from the point of view of the ordinary woman who prefers the attendance of a woman doctor.

The inconsistency of the Board in objecting, on

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