

The Quarterly Meeting of the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association was held by kind invitation of Miss Little on July 16th, at the Islington Infirmary. As the afternoon was fine the Matrons were able to sit out in the garden under the shade of a tree. The subject for consideration was the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, on which an interesting discussion was held. Several new members have recently joined the Association, which now includes almost all the Matrons of the Infirmarys which are recognised by the Local Government Board as Training Schools for Nurses both in London and the Provinces.

Yet another list of nurses and nurse training schools is to be published, "A Nurses' Year Book and Who's Who," edited by Mrs. Davidson, editor of the *Empire and Imperial Review*. It seems a pity when there are already three lists—the Roll of Members of the R.B.N.A.; the Nursing Directory, published by the Nursing Press; and Burdett's Directory—in existence, that a fourth should be attempted, as nurses have shown conclusively that only a Register published under State authority will satisfy them, and that lists not so authorised have no attraction for them. The work of bringing out and keeping such lists up to date is immense and practically useless.

A sale of work in aid of the restoration fund of the chapel of St. John's House, 12, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, was held at the House on Thursday last week, when the stalls were filled with beautiful and useful articles at very moderate prices. The nurses on the staff have for some time been busy in making and collecting the furnishing of their stalls, and these were so well stocked that it seemed a pity there was only one short day in which to dispose of all their contents. Beautiful framed photographs, a finely carved panel from Central Africa, crosses from Ober-Ammergau, dainty tea cloths, cosy woollen vests for tiny babies, which St. John's House nurses are adepts at making, and gloves in black velvet with the word "coal" outlined across them, suggesting their use in the sick room, were amongst the articles on sale at the stalls over which Nurses Davis, K. Walker, Collins, and others presided. In the Hall was the doll stall, where performing Teddy bears and other mechanical toys were also to be found, and a well-stocked sweet stall, where Nurse Herley and Nurse Henry did a brisk trade.

Miss Laura Baker presided over a most attractive frosted cake, and invited the visitors

to pay twopence and guess its weight, the cake to be the property of the first who guessed nearest to the correct weight.

The sale realised over £100 and there are still some articles for disposal.

*John Bull's* articles on Nursing Homes have come to the last chapter, "at any rate for the present," and few, we imagine, will have read them without pausing to consider how scandalous is the condition of affairs. The articles end with "A Remedy," as follows:—"The remedy, as we have so often pointed out, is to be found in Registration—registration of both nurses and nursing homes, and of masseurs and masseuses, and massage establishments. There is now before Parliament a Bill which aims at some, at least, of these objects," and then follows the constitution of the Central Council for Registration as drafted in the Bill before Parliament.

"Whenever the Bill comes before the House (for second reading) it is the intention of our Editor to move amendments with the object of extending its scope to massage nurses, and including the registration of the homes and institutions as well as the practitioners."

We heartily welcome the interest of the M.P. editor of any journal, and realise the urgent necessity for the registration of nursing homes as well as of nurses, but both reforms cannot be incorporated in one Bill. The scheme was suggested in the first Bill of the R.B.N.A., and found impracticable. Get the Nurses' Act in force, and then it will be comparatively easy to draft a Bill for the registration and inspection of homes, which would be most effectively carried out by the County Councils.

Nurses are prepared, as the medical profession does, to pay for the organisation of their own profession, but the cost of carrying out a Registration of Homes Act must be borne by the rates, and not by registered nurses any more than by registered medical practitioners. The public must pay for its own protection in nursing homes, as it does in other matters of health and hygiene.

Miss E. M. Jones, Lady Superintendent of the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, whose resignation of that important post we have already chronicled, has been appointed Lady Inspector for Wales and the Western district under the Local Government Board, to assist in the inspection of Poor Law Infirmarys, and to visit committees in charge of boarded out children.

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