

other nurses." Ultimately the resolution in favour of the £10 subscription was carried; and a letter signed by seven charge nurses of the infirmary asking for increases of salary and for more time off duty per month was referred to the Infirmary Committee.

The Local Government Board assented to the Guardians' proposal to appoint four additional nurses at the City Road Workhouse.

We hear from many parts of the country that the overstrain of nurses in Poor Law institutions is very prevalent, and conditions such that the patients are necessarily neglected. These nurses are officers directly serving a State Department—the Local Government Board—and there is no excuse for the overstrain and underpay of women nurses where their Chief receives a salary of £5,000 a year! and his male officials, according to printed lists, salaries which cost the taxpayers (including women) thousands and thousands annually. We heard recently of one poor girl who had 100 patients to attend to alone during the night, her salary being little over £20 a year! We don't wonder under such circumstances that Poor Law nurses run away and leave no tracks behind them.

A Nursing Department, with a Matron-in-Chief, has long been urgently needed at the Local Government Board. We urge Mr. John Burns to take the matter into consideration.

The large hall at the St. Hilda's Schools, East Leeds, presented a scene of unwonted noise, bustle, and animation last Saturday afternoon. Strange gurglings and cooings resounded through the school. And the reason of all the excitement was a Baby Show, promoted by the West Riding Nursing Association, which, at its local branch at St. Hilda's, has for the past eighteen months been doing a grand work amongst the poorer mothers of the district.

Without doubt it was a highly successful show. In all there were ninety-two entrants in the three classes, and almost all the babes had been ushered into the world by the kindly aid of the nursing staff attached to the Association, of which Miss Thurston is the proud and popular matron. The judges—Dr. Stokes, of Armley, and Miss Sorsby, of the District Nurses' Home at Hunslet—spent the best part of three hours in deciding which babies should take the prizes.

In the judging room the babies were extricated from the wonderful array of lace, ribbon, flannel, and safety pins, which had served to hide their natural beauty, and "mid noddings

on" they were placed under the scrutiny of the judges.

It was finally announced, after much calculation, that Baby Burrow—they were all "Baby This" and "Baby That"—had won the first prize, a silver-plated teapot, for those under six months old, with Baby Firth Dennis, whose mother obtained a silver-plated jam jar, as second. The first prize for babies under twelve months, a baby's high chair, was won by Baby Wallace, the second, a cut-glass and silver flower vase, by Baby Ernest Crossley, and the third, a silver-plated jam jar, by Baby George Dennis.

The first prize for babies under two years, a workbox, was won by Baby Kavanagh, and the prize for the best baby in St. Hilda's parish was awarded to Baby Alfred Reynard. Baby Hollings, aged nine days, easily won the first prize for the youngest baby in the show.

A New Zealand Matron now in England writes:—

"It is just possible that you might like to know a few details for the benefit of applicants for the post of Matron of the Auckland Hospital. The appointment is an excellent one. The Matron has very comfortable quarters—a very large sitting-room, pretty bedroom, with bathroom, &c., opening off the bedroom. She has her own maid, and can have everything she wishes in reason from the Board. Thus there are no domestic discomforts to endure, and although one does not wish to lay too much stress on creature comforts, it does make a difference to have nice surroundings. There are difficulties in New Zealand as elsewhere, and to an England trained nurse taking a Matron's post there the independence of the nurses may be one of them. But if the Matron is a well-educated gentlewoman and has a thorough grasp of organisation, and has held a post of authority in England, her life, in my opinion, is infinitely pleasanter than that of a Matron in England. There's a freshness and vim about life in the Dominion which, I think, is largely climatic."

## REGISTERED NURSING HOMES.

We learn that the association formed by Miss L. M. Stower for the protection of the public and standardising of nursing homes has practically completed the work of registration with the Board of Trade.

The main objects of the association are to see that every matron of a home holds a certificate of a recognized training school, and that the nurses are also certificated; to safeguard the homes from unjust comment, and to protect the public against undesirable homes.

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