

Diocese. The new quarterly paper of the Guild, only lately started, has already over 500 subscribers. The Guild numbers between 900 and 1,000 members.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Carden, gave a satisfactory account of the financial side of the Guild, but pointed out that expenses had increased with the increase and spread of the work, and that subscriptions were much needed.

The annual service was held the same evening, at 8.30, in Southwark Cathedral. The Bishop of Kingston preached an impressive sermon, taking for his text, "I am amongst you as he that serveth." About thirty new members were admitted.

The "Guild of Service" is for Churchmen and Churchwomen connected with or interested in our Poor Law, Asylum, and kindred institutions. Its object is to cherish and deepen the spiritual life of its members and probationers.

Any information relating to the Guild can be obtained from the Organising Secretary, Mrs. Woodward, 12, West Cromwell Road, London, S.W.

A little sly fun has been going the rounds at Barts. There is at present a vacancy on the honorary medical staff, and an outsider is trying to "butt in." "Nothing short of an outrage," cried the juniors, "when we have such first-class men of our own."

A naughty nurse suggested that what was sauce for the poor goose, should also be served with the more imposing gander. But the argument was unconvincing. "Imagine the loss of prestige to the Medical School," the boys exclaimed.

In our opinion no policy can be more destructive of loyalty—and public confidence—than for the governors of a leading medical or nursing school to sacrifice their own pupils, and from social outside pressure to promote a rank outsider with inferior qualifications.

We are all on the side of the gander for once.

It was stated by a nurse at inquests held at Camberwell last week on two aged persons at Newington Workhouse, that there was only one nurse at that institution to 112 aged patients.

In returning verdicts of "Accidental Death," the jury added the rider: "We consider that there should be more nurses for the elderly inmates of Newington Workhouse."

Is it a wonder that we so constantly hear of overstrain and a shortage of nurses? Many

Boards of Guardians are at their wits' end for efficient nurses. They simply can't be got. We have spoken with several country infirmary nurses recently. The following are the reasons advanced:—Monotony of work; impossibility of doing the work thoroughly for lack of sufficient help; bad tone and lack of discipline in wards; longing for change; seven-day working week; tired out and dispirited; down grade of nursing profession; abuse of women in newspapers; and bother about the Insurance Act.

We commend these reasons to the President of the Local Government Board.

An asylum attendant, writing in a contemporary, warns those who contemplate entering asylum service to first obtain a thorough understanding of what they are expected to do. He puts their hours of duty per week at anything from 78 to 100, and the wages of nurses at just under 1d., and of asylum attendants at 1½d. for this period. For this princely wage they are, he says, expected to be models of good temper, kind, gentle, good, and with characters above reproach, and their work consists of anything from wax scrubbing and corridor cleaning to the highest forms of nursing. Again, although their ration money is calculated at an annual rate, in a number of asylums no rations are allowed when on annual leave, nor is the food issued. He concludes by pleading for a fair wage and fair hours for a class of workers who are for the most part good hearted, and ever willing to help the afflicted under their care.

The *Catholic Times* urges the return of the nuns to care for the sick in French hospitals for reasons of, firstly, economy—they only cost 200 francs a year, instead of 1,100 paid to lay sick nurses for inferior service. Secondly, on the opinion of physicians; and thirdly, on the wishes of the sick people themselves. It states that throughout France a perceptible movement in their favour has taken place among medical men, who, although they did not protest with sufficient energy against their removal, now proclaim the necessity of their return. At Lille, the medical men sent in a petition to this effect to the Chambers; at Cherbourg, Toulouse, Annecy, Avignon, and other towns, generally on the occasion of an epidemic having broken out among the sick, the nuns have been recalled by the municipal authorities; in Paris, M. de Puymaigre's initiative will probably bring about their return, in some hospitals, if not in all. He proposes that proper attention should be paid to the wishes expressed by the sick.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)