

cost of living necessitated the advance, and also that the great increase of wealth in the Commonwealth justified it.

No one apparently pleaded the high cost of male skilled labour as a justification for the change; they well might have done so.

Following this action, the Council of the A.T.N.A. have determined to take a referendum of members on the question of Nurses' Fees. We hope the medical men who fill so many of the leading official positions in the Nurses' Association will give support to the advanced charge; as compared with wages paid to artisans in Australasia it is comparatively moderate. Three guineas is the fee for general nursing in New Zealand, and £5 5s. in the United States and Canada.

Amongst a number of cards of greeting, for which we return cordial thanks, we have received one from Miss Genevieve Cooke from San Francisco. A sweet little Chinese lady in pink and green, with parasol and lantern, adorns the outside cover. Inside a "Melly Clissmas" is accompanied by the following invitation:—

Nineteen - fifteen!
That's the date!
Like'- ee you help - ee me
Cel - e - brate.
B'leev - ee me!
Have heap big fun
At San Francisco
Ex - po - si - tion !!

REFLECTIONS

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The detailed accounts have been issued of the recent successful bazaar held in St. Andrew's Hall in aid of the Glasgow Maternity and Women's Hospital. The directors state that when the bazaar was first proposed the indebtedness of the hospital amounted in round figures to £28,000. While the preliminary work for the bazaar was in progress many donations to the Buildings Fund were received. So that at the time of opening the bazaar the indebtedness had been reduced to about £21,000. The bazaar itself realised £16,423 5s. 10d. towards this debt of £21,000, a result which the directors regard as most gratifying, and for which they cordially thank all those concerned.

The Committee of the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital has decided to accede to the request of the Hon. Medical Staff that diphtheria cases needing tracheotomy shall not be admitted for the future. It was considered a menace to the other patients.

LEGAL MATTERS.

AN HONOURABLE CONCLUSION.

In the Outer House of the Court of Session Edinburgh, Lord Dewar was on Thursday, 18th inst., informed of the settlement of the action in which Miss Elizabeth Birnie Couper, matron, Clackmannan Combination Infectious Diseases Hospital, Alloa, sued Lord Balfour of Burleigh for £2,000 damages for alleged slander.

This is the second action by the plaintiff against defender arising out of the same circumstances. The first action was founded upon a letter by the defender to the clerk of the County Council of Clackmannanshire, dated September 1, 1911, with reference to the death of a son of his overseer in the hospital in August, 1911, and also upon a letter by the defender to the Local Government Board of Scotland on January 11, 1912. That action was dismissed on the ground that the defender's communications complained of were privileged, and that the plaintiff had set forth no facts instructing malice. In this second action the plaintiff found on these letters and also upon a letter by the defender to the Local Government Board of Scotland dated April 29, 1912, and other letters. The defender denied the slander and the new averments and pleaded privilege.

Lord Dewar allowed five issues for the trial of the action by jury.

LORD BALFOUR'S APOLOGY.

In Court of Session, on the 18th inst., Mr. Millar, for the defender, stated to the Court "that the defender had no intention of making any statement casting any reflection or imputation upon the pursuer in any of the communications referred to upon record, but in so far as the said communications in any way cast any reflection or imputation, or can be construed as casting any reflection or imputation, upon the pursuer or her character or her professional reputation the defender unreservedly retracts and withdraws the same, as there were no grounds therefor, and expresses his unqualified regret and apology for the same; and

Mr. Wilton, for Miss Couper, accepted the retraction and apology, and withdrew all allegations made by her which might reflect on the good faith of the defender.

In these circumstances it was mutually agreed that the action be settled upon the following terms. Lord Balfour to pay the sum of £300 sterling to Miss Couper, and the whole of her costs and expenses in both the Outer and the Inner House.

Miss Couper is entitled to the congratulations of the nursing profession for having, with persistent courage, under most difficult circumstances, successfully defended her character and her professional reputation.

We congratulate both plaintiff and defender upon the honourable conclusion of the case.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)