

We must also now refer, for the first time, to the events of the year in connection with this Journal. From July its ownership passed into other hands, and from the eminent firm of publishers who first owned it into the possession of a limited liability Company, who, with ample resources and abundant energy, have determined that *The Nursing Record* shall be the leading Journal for the profession in the English-speaking countries of the world. Since then we have much advanced, and our New Year's issue will contain a scheme of immense importance to Nurses, and a permanent enlargement of our columns.

And so, gladly recognising the successful progress in every direction made in the past twelve months, we look forward hopefully to 1892, and most heartily wish our readers, at home and abroad, "A very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!"

POCKET VOTES.

It is an established rule in Parliament, and in most public bodies, that those who are pecuniarily interested in any matter under discussion should not vote upon it. In Hospitals, the same idea finds expression in the almost universal custom that the paid officials shall have no vote—even if they be otherwise entitled to that privilege—at the meetings of Governors of the Institution. But it would appear to be advisable—if the spirit of the law, as well as its letter, is to be maintained—that this principle should, in some Institutions, be carried to its logical conclusion, and that no Governor, pecuniarily dependent upon the goodwill of the Committee of Management, should be permitted to vote. We are informed, upon unimpeachable authority, that, in the case of the London Hospital meetings, a porter is sent out to summon certain tradesmen in the Whitechapel Road, who are Governors, and who—*post* or *propter hoc*—supply the Hospital with goods, to attend the Courts. This significant fact explains the noisy meeting, held a year ago, which cheered every sentence spoken by the chairman, and howled down every speaker who attempted to criticise the management—or rather the mismanagement—of the Committee. It explains the large majority by which the Committee can always defeat any adverse resolution. We cannot blame these worthy shopkeepers, because to refuse to leave their counters when summoned by a Hospital porter to attend, or to vote against the Committee when they duly arrived, would mean a considerable risk of loss of custom. A system whereby the trustees of the public can muddle, and mess, and mismanage a great Charity, and can then stifle all discussion, or crush all suggestions of reform from independent Governors, because they have a solid phalanx of trembling tradesmen at their beck and call, is absolutely indefensible. But it proves that the only hope of removing the London Hospital scandals lies

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in an appeal direct to the public, from the platform, and through the Press.

TOYS IN HOSPITALS AND INFIRMARIES.

THE annual exhibition of *Truth's* toys took place at the Polytechnic, Oxford Street, one of the halls used being the old swimming-bath. There was the customary army of dolls, with the aristocracy of doll-land well represented; indeed, so costly and beautifully-finished were many of the waxen babies, and so ingenious and artistic, numbers of the miscellaneous toys—displayed in a separate hall—that many a rich man's child might long in vain for such wonderful playthings. The generosity of the English public is proverbial, and these munificent Christmas-boxes to children, who have many of them never even owned a penny toy, has ceased to surprise us; but to those who appreciate the mechanical and artistic perfections of many of these toy-wonders, it seems almost a pity that Tom, Dick, and Sally should be allowed to destroy them on the first day of ownership, in innocent ignorance of their meaning and value, especially when we call to mind the fact—well known to those who work in Children's Wards—that the penny pail, the halfpenny broom, the farthing flat-iron (reminding the little recipient of labours she is generally only too familiar with), and the fourpenny composition dolly, with her bland smile and her scarlet bunting dress, are quite as delightful to the girl-stranger in toyland; while to the boy anything in the shape of a horse or cart, cab or van, which recalls the traffic of the street, that has hitherto been his playground, is joy-inspiring, regardless of its marketable value.

SYMPATHY AND THE POLICE REGULATIONS.

AN act of impulse—done simply, and prompted by self forgetful sympathy—has been justly noted in our daily papers. A poor old man, passing along Brompton Crescent, fell down on the pavement in a fainting condition. A lady and her son saw the accident from a window, and immediately went to his assistance. The son, with the aid of a footman, carried him into the house; the lady supported his head with cushions, and endeavoured to alleviate his sufferings; but in vain—before medical aid could arrive the old man died. He had been an artificial flower-dresser, only a few days before, dismissed from St. George's Union Workhouse. A curious police regulation came into prominence with regard to the case. The gentleman of the house, seeing the man's desperate condition, summoned the nearest police constable for assistance; but the man urged that he was unable to enter a private house, as it was contrary to his regulations, though he was willing to call a cab to take the patient to the Infirmary. It seems curious that our guardians of the peace should be unable to enter a house to give assistance. Would the same regulation have held good in the case of a fire, murder, or burglary?

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