

fire while she was lifting a kettle from a gas stove, draws attention once more to the danger of using cotton wool in connection with Christmas festivities. We should like to see its use for decorative purposes prohibited by authorities.

A case of the mistaken identity of two children is to be investigated by the Metropolitan Asylums Board under whose care they were. Two children about three years of age were transferred from the Western Fever Hospital to the Northern Convalescent Hospital in the usual way on October 25, but one was discharged two months before the other, and though both mothers appeared to have some doubt when they went for their respective children, they accepted the assurance of the hospital authorities as to the identity of both. Actually little Freddie Tatchell, of Coburg Buildings, Victoria Street, had been living for two months as the supposed child of Mrs. Tolley, of Strutton Ground near by, before the mistake was discovered, and the children restored to their respective parents.

At the annual meeting of the Victoria Hospital, Burnley, the matron (Miss M. Alexander) in her report on the nursing department, stated that nine nurses who entered during the year for the preliminary examination under the General Nursing Council scheme of State examinations, had all passed.

The Edmund Halstead medal had this year been awarded to the nurse who had obtained the highest number of marks for all examinations, and including her practical work in the wards. But in future, to be eligible for the medal a nurse would have to obtain 85 per cent. of the total marks for all examinations, and also have 85 per cent. of the marks given on the "Merit List" (based on Ward Sisters' reports). This was to prevent the medal going to a nurse who might be excellent in theory, but poor in practice, conduct, &c.

The six nurses who entered for the final examination had all passed, and Nurse Robinson with 73.3 per cent. received the gold medal. Nurse Robinson had also carried off the first prize, as well as the prize for obtaining the highest number of marks on the Merit List.

The Chairman, before presenting the badges and certificates gained by the nurses, said that the great desire of the Board of Management being that the hospital should be officially recognised as a nurse-training centre, they aimed at having the very best conditions for their nurses that could be devised. For three and a half years the hospital had been in a state of continued turmoil on account of building operations. It was hoped that by another twelve months that all this would be finished, and that the hospital would soon, in all respects, be a thoroughly equipped institution capable of doing the very best work of which hospitals were capable—an institution of which the town could be proud.

The prizes, certificates, and training school badges were then presented by Mr. Halstead, the name of Miss Robinson, as the winner of Mr. Halstead's gold medal, being particularly applauded.

Much has been said in the press as to the bravery of a nurse who voluntarily acted as a stretcher-bearer in

France, in an emergency, during the Great War, and is now, as a result of wounds received (having been shot through the lungs) under treatment at the Aylsham Poor Law Infirmary, Norfolk. We learn, on good authority, that the nurse is not a member of any of the regular military nursing services.

The St. Faith's (Norfolk) Board of Guardians have, on the motion of Major S. W. Trafford, directed the attention of the Minister of Pensions to the case, so that it will, no doubt, be thoroughly investigated. In the meanwhile the nurse expresses herself as well cared for and happy, and if our Poor Law Infirmarys were Municipal Hospitals, there would appear to be no reason for removing her from her present surroundings.

Major S. W. Trafford said it was a case to which the attention of the Minister of Pensions should be most strongly drawn, and the local members of Parliament should be asked to take it up. He was surprised that a woman could be allowed to be in an infirmary after doing what she had done. Men had got the Victoria Cross for doing similar things. If any woman was entitled to a pension, surely she was.

Miss Bicknell, Director Department of Nursing, in her annual report to the Director-General of Health, New Zealand, states that "by arrangement with the Council of the Otago University, a Diploma of Nursing has been instituted, which it is hoped will bridge over the period between a girl's leaving school and entering into a hospital for training. The course will be of five years' duration, and will include the statutory term of three years' training in a hospital. Better-educated girls who are desirous of taking administrative or other responsible posts in their profession, should take advantage of this course. It should be possible, also, to combine with the diploma course post-graduate instructions for registered nurses who may wish to take up some special branch of nursing or administrative work." She continues:—

"While in England I found that such courses in connection with various universities were open to nurses, and the time seems ripe for New Zealand nurses to have similar advantages placed at their disposal in their own country to enable them to keep pace with the trend of modern progress.

"Our nurses have an excellent reputation among the nurses of other countries, as I found when attending the meeting of the International Council of Nurses in Copenhagen in August. It would be deplorable if, through lack of opportunity, they were allowed to remain stationary while others advanced."

AN ARTIFICIAL LARYNX.

An artificial larynx, invented by Dr. John MacKenty and the Western Electric Company was recently shown in New York by means of which the power of speech can, it is claimed, be restored to patients operated upon for cancer of the oesophagus. The oesophagus is connected by a tube from the throat aperture to a small box containing an artificial vocal chord, whence the vibrations are carried into the speaker's mouth, by which means he can modulate them in a manner similar to ordinary speech.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)