

There are professional floral decorators who can demand as much as £5 or £6 for arranging a dinner-table. The most successful are almost invariably those who simply carry out Nature's suggestions, and recall the surroundings under which the flowers would be seen were they growing. I recently saw a much-admired arrangement of a centre-piece, invented (or rather compiled) by a professional lady decorator, every detail of which was obviously illustrating a familiar country scene, and was deliciously suggestive of cool repose and summer holidays—a large glass dish full of water-lilies lying on the water, surrounded by their leaves, a margin of blue forget-me-nots and feather-rushes, the glass hidden by a wreath of fern-moss, surrounded a tall lily-shaped, clear glass vase, in which bul-rushes were placed. Blue dragon flies, attached by invisible wire, appeared to hover about them.

Violets mingle well with primroses, and are effective in masses in common earthenware dishes or flat basins; lilies should never be crowded, and show their stalk and something of their height. The same might be said of sunflowers and of ox-eyed daisies; the latter are always more effective when mingled with grasses that recall their native meadows.

The cultivation of a truer taste has well-nigh

banished the laborious carpet-bouquet, and taught us that the most *artistic* harmonies of natural flowers are the least *artificial*. As in many other professions, deftness comes with practice, and powers of observation that would be valuable under any circumstances are the main-spring of success.

THE SOCIETY OF OPERATORS IN MASSAGE AND MEDICAL ELECTRICITY.

THE first ordinary general meeting of this Society was held on Tuesday, the 19th inst., at the rooms of the National Health Society, in Berners Street (kindly lent for the occasion).

Mr. H. Newman Laurence, the Chairman, opened the proceedings by explaining that the meeting was called in order that the work done by the Council might be made known to the members, and with a view of learning the opinion of the meeting on many points of interest.

Mr. Laurence prefaced his address by announcing that the Society is now registered, which he hoped would lend weight and dignity to its standing. He then continued as follows:—

"It has occurred to me that I cannot do better

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No. 36.

A Book or Books of the value of Five Shillings, or Two Pairs "Gregg's" Kid Gloves, will be awarded for the best answer to the question:—

"How would you prepare a patient for Ovariotomy?"

Address "The Nursing Record Post-Card Competition," 376, Strand, London, W.C. All answers must reach us not later than the morning of Saturday, April 30, 1892.

(a) The answer must be written (neatness and distinctness count to credit) in ink, on a *thick* post-card, with the full name and address of the candidate at the top. The successful candidate's answer will be printed in *fac-simile*.

(b) All associated with Nursing work are accepted as candidates, but in case of a "tie" a *subscriber* will naturally have preference, and for this reason each candidate must mention at the bottom of the post-card I am a subscriber, or "I obtain THE NURSING RECORD from——"

(c) The decision of the Examiners to be final.

* Give name and address of newsagent where obtained.

THE LONDON MASSAGE AND GALVANIC HOSPITAL.

For Paralysis, Epilepsy, and Diseases of Debility in Adults, and especially for Paralysis in Little Children.—Patron, The Very Rev. The DEAN OF LICHFIELD. THE SAMARITAN DEPARTMENT, 55, Weymouth Street, Portland Place, is open every week day except Saturday at 1.30, and on Wednesday Evening at 8 o'clock. Free to the Destitute; others contribute a small sum. The Patients of the West End Hospital, which Dr. Tibbits founded in 1878, under the Patronage of the PRINCESS OF WALES, and the Presidency of the late DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH, are now invited to transfer themselves to his care at the above Massage Hospital.

The Training School for Nurses and Private Nursing Institute is at 67, Welbeck Street. Some former Students are earning from £100 to £400 a year. Masseurs and Masseuses sent to Patients' houses; or Patients can be treated at the Institute, by Massage and all forms of Electricity, and allied Methods. Nurses trained at St. Bartholomew's, Guy's, and other London Hospitals sent to Medical and Surgical Cases; and Nurses are invited to enter as Members. Ladies and Gentlemen required as collectors for the Samaritan Department upon Liberal Terms. The Fifth Yearly Session for instruction has resumed.

JOHN SCOTT, Hon. Secretary.

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