

Another great advantage to a Hospital is a tree for the public. This means work and thought; but if this is thought of large sums of money can be raised and gratefully received by the committee. Such a tree must be drawn for by one shilling or higher price members; and if friends are asked to give various things worth that sum, many draws may be put on a tree. There may be a separate tree for children; they don't always like to feel they are going to get "grown up things"; they like dolls or toys. It cannot be helped if boys get girls' things; but in arranging a tree for children and adults you must make a difference. As many as four hundred and sixty draws have been known to be taken off the two trees by having them refilled during the stated time for drawing. Even this is a help to any Hospital. Our Hospital found great benefit from fifty pounds got in this way last year. A nice change and way of disposing of very small things, which are often sent at such times, is a big "brandy tub" that holds a great many things; and even the small sum of threepence mounts up and helps in the end.

These things all give extra pleasure to the patients, and are all taken in with Christmas enjoyments, and all feel glad to be able at the same time to do something to increase the funds when needed. Christmas week is past; New Year's Day is drawing near. That is let past without a thought some may think; but no, even that day is thought of, and there are mostly New Year's cards for each, and one year there may be a magic lantern of some interesting subject shown by some kind gentleman. As each New Year's Day comes we are often reminded of the many gone to rest during the past year. The patients, when laid aside from their usual work, have time to think. What of? They think and are reminded in the Hospital of those things they may never have thought of or had time to think of before. Many, both men and women, are unable to read or write, and being too busy in their different homes to learn to do such a thing, but when brought to the Hospital they are sometimes read to or talked to about the Home which is beyond, where pain and sickness is at an end, and where Hospitals and Nurses will be no more needed for the work they try to carry out so well, in trying to ease and comfort the suffering patients all the year round as well as on Christmas Day.

FRIENDLY AND OFFICIOUS PERSONS.—Many persons fancy themselves friendly when they are only officious. They counsel not so much that you should become wise as they should be recognised as teachers of wisdom.

NURSING ECHOES.

Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are especially invited for these columns.

I AM asked to mention here that the next meeting of the General Council of the British Nurses' Association will be held



to-morrow (Friday) afternoon at five o'clock, at No. 20, Hanover Square. The agenda I see is: To receive reports from the Executive Committee, and to consider fresh regulations for the admission of Members. From all accounts we may look forward

to some fresh qualifications being now demanded from Nurses desirous of joining the Association. Many months ago I remember Mr. Editor called attention to the way in which membership of other professional bodies had—as they increased in success and strength—always been made more and more difficult of attainment, and therefore more and more honourable to those who gained it.

AND he prophesied that sooner or later we were sure to find the managers of the B.N.A. in like manner steadily raising their standard of qualifications for membership. A great deal of cheap ridicule has been cast upon our Association because it commenced by admitting to its membership Nurses who had never been trained in a Hospital, so long as they had worked honourably for at least three years in attendance on the sick. For my part I do not see how the Association could, in fairness or justice, have ignored such workers. As a matter of fact, it is now well-known that very few except Trained Nurses applied for Membership. From February, 1888, until the present—that is to say, for nearly two years—this has been the rule, but I am told that for the last year an increasing number of applications have been declined, as the general standard has been steadily raised. Now it seems that some new rules altogether are to be brought into force, which almost certainly will have the effect of making the Membership more difficult still to obtain.

I AM indebted to the courtesy of the Secretary of the West of England Eye Infirmary, at Exeter, for the news that Miss Howard Jones has lately been appointed Matron of that Institution. Miss Jones was trained at St. Bartholomew's, and after

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