

FLOWERS, FERNS, AND WARD DECORATIONS.

[Continued from page 298.—Communications for this column should be addressed "Gardener," care of the Editor of THE HOSPITAL.]

In the useful hints which have appeared in THE HOSPITAL on ward decoration, I have noticed the omission of one point, namely, that a hospital ward may be most effectively ornamented from the *outside*. Wherever there is a window-sill wide enough to put a box upon, a show may be kept up for nine months of the year with flowers that would speedily wither if kept *inside*. Except the windows open with casements, there is nothing to prevent the sills being utilised in this manner, and there ought to be no difficulty in providing the boxes. Many a carpenter or joiner must remember the hospital ward in which he or one of his family has received all the aid that human skill could give in alleviation of sickness or accident, and must wish to show his gratitude if he knew how. For such a man to make a box to fit any window-sill would cost very little time or money. The fronts can be made pretty in many ways, with ornamental painting, coloured tiles, sea or snail-shells (stuck in a layer of Portland cement, which can be made to adhere by the box being stuck plentifully with small tacks), pieces of virgin cork-rustic sticks (fastened on with long fine nails), and other modes; nor need there be any want of suitable plants to fill them. For climbing at the sides of the window nothing can exceed the ivy in its evergreen hardihood, to which in summer can be added the gay and varied nasturtiums, sweet-peas, canary creeper, and in sunny places, convolvulus major, and if the box is deep, clematis. For the middle, anything which the air of the place will allow to grow in beds, will do equally well in window-boxes, with very little care. It may be said that nurses have not the time, nor all of them the skill to become window-gardeners. I see no reason why they need. Large hospitals in their own grounds have usually a man to keep them in order, who could fill and plant the boxes from time to time, leaving only the watering to be done from the wards, and in other places it would be very easy for ladies and gentlemen, who have gardens and gardeners, each to provide for one ward. The competition between them would surely give far more real pleasure than the most coveted prizes at flower-shows! In this, as in other things,

"The thoughtful love,
Through constant watching, wise,"

would give better results than the mere outlay of money.

M. MATTOCKS.

AN INVALUABLE AND NECESSARY INSTITUTION.

A hospital is an invaluable and necessary institution, where the sick and wounded are well cared for, doctored, and nursed. Many a poor sufferer has been able to pass his last moments on this earth, in peace and comfort in one of these homely institutions; but for them, in misery. — PERSEVERANCE.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

All questions should be addressed to Mr. Howard J. Collins, Secretary, the Hospitals Association, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, EMPLOYMENT AS A NURSE IN NEW ZEALAND.

MISS CATTON writes:—"Can you give me any information as to how I could best hear of an engagement as trained nurse in a private nursing institution, or as assistant nurse in a hospital, with a view to becoming charge nurse, anywhere in New Zealand? Do you know if nurses are much in demand there? I shall be much obliged if you can give me any information."

* * There is no way by which a nurse can make sure of being employed in one of the hospitals in New Zealand. All such appointments are made in the Colony, and it is not known that nurses are ever specially sent for from England. Selections and appointments are certainly not made over here.

WANTED, A HOME FOR AN INVALID NURSE

"AN ANXIOUS MARRON" writes:—"Could any of the readers of THE HOSPITAL tell me what to do in the following case? A nurse has been under my care for the last two years, and for some time has been suffering from an ulcerated stomach and weak heart. She is now totally unfit for hospital work, and her medical attendant says she must have several months' entire rest. For the last six weeks she has been sent to a convalescent home in New Brighton at the expense of the hospital. I am anxious to find a place where she could be received, or should be glad to know if anyone could suggest a home or hospital, where she could be taken in, as the poor girl is without home, or friends to look after her."

WANTED, PARTIAL EMPLOYMENT FOR A TRAINED NURSE.

A "CONSTANT READER" writes from Newcastle:—"Is there any dispensary or other medical institution where a nurse could be employed for half or a portion of a day?"

COTTAGE HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION.

COULD any of your readers kindly inform me of some plan or place to gain information for building a Cottage Hospital? The inhabitants (four thousand) and other friends of Huntly have gathered about £1,200 for a Cottage Hospital, and we wish to expend it to the best advantage. Any information to that effect will be most thankfully received by

HUDSON TEAPE, B.A., Clk.

Parsonage, Huntly, N.B.

* * The second edition of *Cottage Hospitals*, published by J. and A. Churchill, New Burlington Street, London, W., gives full information on the subject, and contains plans also.

NEARLY AN IDIOT!

MRS. PRYOR, 17, Avenue Road, Regent's Park, wishes to know how to get a girl, aged fourteen, nearly an idiot, if not quite, into an Idiot Asylum. Parents are very poor working people, and unable to pay anything towards her maintenance. Which would be the proper asylum for a girl living at Bethnal Green?

* * Application should be made to Relieving Officer of the district, who will supply the necessary forms for signature by the parent, two medical men, and a magistrate. There is an asylum at Bethnal Green (Dr. John Miliar, Bethnal House, Bethnal Green).