

ragged, shoeless boy and girl stood, hand-in-hand before a shop window where bunches of garden flowers were interspersed with currants and raspberries, etc., and all within reach of the passers-by. My sordid thought was that the children were longing for the fruit. Not so. When the boy at last dragged his little sister onward, she turned her head and said in touching tones, 'Pretty Flowers.' How mournful a thought does this bring to our mind!

"And now permit me, in conclusion, to ask the possessors and bestowers of flowers to think of the myriad children in our large towns who never see a flower from year's end to year's end, and not leave them uncared for."

THE STORY OF "SISTER OLIVE."

MAY I, as a nurse of many years' experience, be permitted to say a few words in the "Sister Olive" controversy, caused by the letters of Miss Wood and Miss Twining? I cannot but think that those ladies have formed ideas of propriety more suited to a French convent than to any section of English society, where in every class men and women are accustomed to mingle freely from their earliest to their latest years. Are we to infer that ladies and gentlemen who are engaged, often from the highest motives, in hospital work, are the only people unworthy of the freedom enjoyed by all others? I can thoroughly sympathise with the difficulties that must always occur in maintaining discipline amongst a large body of workers, embracing infinite varieties of character; but I do not think that martinetes are the best disciplinarians. On the contrary, I believe that nothing is more destructive of the true spirit of discipline than a system of arbitrary and needless restriction. Wherever quick feelings and wide sympathies exist, they are sure to seek an outlet, and the perhaps fortunate persons who do not possess those qualities are better fitted for the manipulation of dead matter of any sort, than for tending the suffering compounds of body, soul, and spirit called patients. I will only say, in conclusion, that I consider the spirit that runs through "Sister Olive" as much above the morality of its critics as the free spirit of Christian ethics exceeds the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees.

Salop.

AN ENGLISHWOMAN.

I AM pleased to see Miss Wood's objection to the story "Sister Olive." I should have written to you myself a fortnight ago on the subject, but for a pressure of work at that time. My objection to the interview between Sister Olive and Dr. Grant in the house-physician's room had not a shadow of imputation or suspicion against them, but I think the higher their reputation the more harm will such a precedent do.

That hospital was singularly fortunate to have a resident medical officer of unblemished reputation for five years; so many changes and chances are usually taking place in a hospital, now that strict rules are needed more than formerly. Happy must any hospital be which has not in its annals a record of some incidents that prove it is undesirable for the nursing staff to visit the resident medical officers in their own rooms. I am disappointed to find you think THE HOSPITAL needs the addition of a story which seems to me more suited for the pages of the *Family Herald*.

A. BASTER, Lady Superintendent.

Royal Berks Hospital, Reading.

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY AND MEDICAL SCHOOL.

IN THE HOSPITAL of the 11th inst., you gave the minimum cost which a student may be expected to expend during his three or four years' attendance on classes for the diploma of L.F.P.S. Glasgow, at from £300 to £350,

and from £500 to £550 for the M.D. of the University of Glasgow. I understand these sums include the cost of the diploma or the degree. The L.F.P.S. Glas. is now merged in the triple qualification of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, and the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons. Your estimate is, in my opinion, too high; a student could live luxuriously on the sums you mention. I think a student whose habits are not extravagant, can complete a very full curriculum at this school, and take the triple qualification for a sum of £270; or if he attends the University and takes his M.D., he could do it comfortably for £310. Many hard-working students with limited means do it for considerably less.

M. THOMAS, M.D., Superintendent.

Royal Infirmary, Glasgow.

CHRISTMAS AT "THE FOUNDLING."

IT may be of some interest to your readers to hear something of our doings in the Infirmary of the Foundling. I think my little patients had a right merry Christmas, all able to be up. They were entertained in the girls' ward, which we did our best to brighten up with decorations and toys. Twenty-two of us sat down to dessert at five o'clock, and a merry feast we had, with crackers, and cakes, and other things too numerous to mention. Kind Mr. G— came up and gave each child a silver coin, bright and fresh from the Mint, and Mrs. G— gave each one a toy. There were drums for some, dolls for others, games for the bigger ones, and tambourines. Then we had games, and rides on the rocking-horse, until all, tired with play, went to bed, hugging toys, cards, etc. So we leave them to dream of Santa Claus, who will ever remain a stranger, yet always the friend of the little ones.

S. K. MCBRIDE,

Sister in charge of the Infirmary.

DIFFICULT CASES.

A POOR HALF-WITTED GIRL.

WHO, of all our readers, will lend a hand to help this deserving and interesting case?—

Can you or your readers kindly give some advice regarding the following "Difficult case." It is that of a half-witted girl of about fifteen who is in the small workhouse of a country town. She cannot, of course, get her own living in service, and though she can read a little, sew a little, and do simple sums, it seems difficult to know in what way she could be employed, and it seems a pity for her to remain with adults. Are paupers taken at Earlswood, or is there any similar institution for paupers where they can be trained to do needlework or to make baskets, or anything they may be capable of. I should be glad of information as to the probable cost of the same, and if Guardians as a rule are willing to spend on such cases.—I am, yours faithfully,

J. WILSON, Hon. Sec.

Workhouse Infirmary Nursing Association,
44, Berners Street, W.

AN INTRACTABLE CHILD.

MISS BELL is anxious to obtain another child who is perverse and subject to epileptical seizures, with a tendency to insanity, as companion to one similarly afflicted (see p. 14 of THE HOSPITAL, "F. F. G."). She can offer a pretty home, with every care and attention, with school discipline.

Terms would be according to requirements.

The children would be under the supervision of a medical man, very skilled in treating such cases.

St. Mary's, Ephinstone Road,
Hastings.