

CHRISTMAS AGAIN

THE Christmas season is upon us again, and all sorts and conditions of people are for the time being putting aside selfish things and considering what they can do that will bring happiness and pleasure to others. Presents for those near and dear to us are easily provided for, according to the length of our purses, but almost everyone hesitates as to whether or not it is best to send a simple, inexpensive gift to a friend at a distance "who has everything," rather than to allow the day to pass without our Christmas greeting. This is an occasion when it is fair to "put yourself in his place." If we value the pretty or useful trifles that come in with the mail on Christmas morning, we may be very sure that our friends do the same, and may be governed accordingly. The writer has a half-dozen handkerchiefs that have come to her in Christmas letters from as many different friends, and in the haste of her morning toilet, or the rush of dressing to go out later in the day, the fresh handkerchief, if it happen to be one of these, seems to bring the face of the giver for a moment before her eyes. It is, after all, by the little gifts and graces that we live in the hearts of our friends, and nurses, whose lives are necessarily isolated, cannot afford to neglect the little tokens of Christmas remembrance.

JANE TOPPAN NOT A TRAINED NURSE

THE nursing profession has recently been greatly startled by the "sensational newspaper" reports that the Jane Toppan accused of causing the death of twelve persons in as many months is a "*trained nurse*." This woman was at one time a pupil in the training-school of the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, but was "discharged for cause" in the year 1891. She was immediately taken up by physicians in good standing in and about Boston, given work, and has posed as a "trained nurse" in that vicinity for ten years.

Here is another instance of the disloyalty of many medical men to the graduate nurse, and an illustration of the crying need of her protection from such injustice by means of State registration. How can we expect the general public to discriminate between the genuine nurse and the fraud who wears her uniform, when physicians seem to regard one with as much favor as the other?

We hope this disgraceful circumstance will rouse the nurses of Massachusetts to action towards State registration. The more universal the movement throughout the country, the greater probability of success to all. We do not profess to judge of the justice or injustice of the charges brought against Miss Toppan. We deplore the fact that in the eyes of the world the profession of nursing must bear the disgrace of a scandal brought upon it by a woman not belonging within its ranks.

