

At 12.30 all fires must be well built up, and the fire-places swept, to last through the afternoon; Sister's lunch requires serving; the Ward must be swept, and lightly dusted; and then the dinner crockery and tins thoroughly washed, polished, and put away, and the kitchen made tidy for the afternoon by 2.30; after which the Ward-maid will take half an hour to tidy herself, putting on a clean uniform for the afternoon. She will now have a little time to rest—read, sew, or go off duty—seeing that by four o'clock water is boiling in readiness for the patients' tea, before she leaves the Ward for her own. Upon returning to duty at 4.30, the crockery used at the patients' tea must be washed up, and the fires again made up, before she goes off duty at six.

On the evenings, four in number, when the Ward-maid is on duty until eight p.m., she will do such extra routine Ward-cleaning as shall have been arranged by the Matron and Sister: one night, scrubbing the inside of the lockers; another, polishing the floor; and there will also be tins to polish, knives to clean, and cupboards to scrub, a certain night being set apart every week for each special duty. By this arrangement no accumulation of dust, dirt, or rubbish need ever occur.

The Ward-maid may be called upon to perform a number of other little duties, such as taking a message to another part of the Hospital for the Sister; but she must never absent herself from the Ward without permission. The plan of Ward-maids being sent *outside* the gates, upon any private business of the Nursing Staff, should be strictly prohibited, as it interferes with the regular routine of her work; and as every precaution should be taken in a public institution to maintain an official attitude between the various grades of workers, it must never be imagined for a moment that one is the servant of the other. The Ward-maid will have a certain routine of duties to perform for the Sister, which are arranged as part of her work by the authorities, who are responsible to the public for the efficiency of the Hospital; but she is not the private domestic of the Nursing Staff, and must not be utilised as such. This mistaken attitude of one public servant towards another has caused endless jars and disagreeables in the past, and can only be avoided in the future by a conscientious maintenance of discipline on the part of the Sister.

SOME beautiful work has been contributed by the Sisters of East Grinstead to the ecclesiastical art exhibition at Manchester, collected by Mr. John Hart, of Southampton Street, Strand. The exquisite altar cloth and vestments, wrought by the needles of the nuns, are attracting great attention among the visitors.

OUR INSTITUTIONS:

A RECORD OF THEIR OBJECTS AND WORK.

THE QUEEN VICTORIA NURSES' INSTITUTE,
SCOTTISH BRANCH.

By C. E. GUTHRIE WRIGHT, *Provisional Hon. Sec.*

TO provide Nurses for the sick poor in their own homes is no new idea in Scotland; many agencies exist throughout the country for this purpose. Some of these train the Nurses they have engaged, specially in district work, before they become Staff Nurses; others assume that Hospital training alone is sufficient. It is, however, the opinion of the most experienced managers that a greater amount of training and of self-reliance is essential in an efficient District Nurse than in an average Hospital Nurse, because the former has not the advantages of the latter in the way of appliances and constant medical supervision.

The Queen has devoted the surplus of the Women's Jubilee Offering to founding an Institute for promoting the education and maintenance of Nurses for the sick poor in their own homes. The surplus (£72,588) has been placed in the hands of trustees, and, invested, yields an income of £2,000. This income would, no doubt, have handsomely endowed one central institution. But we Scottish people are apt to regard in a questioning spirit the tendency to centralise in London; and in this instance we have good reason to be pleased that the trustees decided to devote £300 yearly towards a Scottish branch, with a central training home in the Scottish capital. Considered by the standard of population, this sum is over the proportion Scotland might expect. It is, however, insufficient for the purpose; and it is obvious that, if a separate Scottish branch is to exist, the scheme must be supported by the assistance of the public.

In June, Her Majesty appointed a Provisional Committee, who, with the trustees, form the governing body of the Institute, and the acting committee for England.

The Scottish Provisional Committee, subsequently nominated, consists of the following ladies and gentlemen: The Marchioness of Lothian, the Countess of Aberdeen, the Hon. Lady Campbell of Blythswood, Lord Hamilton of Dalzell, the Right Hon. J. B. Balfour, M.P., Dr. Joseph Bell, Sir Thomas Clark, Sheriff Crichton, Mrs. Ford, Professor Gairdner, Mrs. Higginbotham, Miss Lumsden, Miss Louisa Stevenson, Mrs. Trayner, and myself.

The Scottish Committee works under the able presidentship of the Countess of Rosebery,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)