

THE presentation of the Queen's badges to the Nurses trained in the Manchester and Salford Hospitals attracted a very large number of ladies to the Town Hall on the 24th ult. The Mayor presided over the meeting, and Mr. Oliver Heywood, who was called afterwards to explain the work done by the Institute, observed that the badges were conferred for training, experience, and high character in the service of a Society affiliated with the Nurses' Institute, founded by the Queen in connection with Her Majesty's Jubilee. The number of Queen's badges already conferred was ninety. He hoped that a work so beneficent would spread all over the country, and be an abiding and beautiful memorial of the Jubilee of the Queen. In regard to the Nurses in connection with the local centres, he said the inspector had spoken in very high terms of the gentleness, diligence, and skill with which they performed their duties. Before a badge was given, it was required that a Nurse should have had one year of Hospital training and six months of district training. The local Nurses, however, had four years of Hospital experience, and three and a-half years of district training. Mr. Heywood then presented the badges to the following ladies—Ardwick and Ancoats Branch: Miss J. Blower, Superintendent; Misses A. Evans, S. Lake, E. Healey, M. Scott, M. Holyoake, M. Bennett, and H. Davies. Salford Branch: Miss C. E. Barff, Superintendent; Misses A. Simpson, B. Kelly, E. Ratcliffe, C. Boddington, and A. Marriott. Hulme Branch: Miss E. Hind, Superintendent; and Miss S. A. Mills. The badge, which is to be worn on the arm, consists of the Royal monogram, worked in pale blue silk on a ground of dark blue.

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FROM various quarters we have heard that our criticism of the Nursing Department of the London Hospital has been considered to be too personal and too strong. We commend in all humility to those critics who object to plain-speaking when grave public scandals are concerned, the following extract from the *Pall Mall Gazette*, of March 5, as evidence that the only other organ in the press which has been courageous and honest enough to take up the matter uses stronger and more personal language than we have done:—"The quarterly court of the London Hospital yesterday was a decided improvement on the last one. The chairman went so far as to own up to the erratic nature of the statistics about the Matron's exercise of her dismissal powers

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which were lately criticised in the *Pall Mall Gazette*. Some actual improvements also appeared in the report. Cases of dismissal were mentioned, in which the committee had declined to move until they had heard the statement of the Probationer of whom the Matron complained. Two men had been engaged to perform the rougher menial work of the Wards. Further, it was stated that a scheme for the re-construction of the Nursing Staff had been submitted by the Matron, and was under consideration. There were other features of the report, however, by no means so satisfactory. The promised addition to the Ward-maids does not seem to have been made, and the third week's holiday to Probationers has not been given. Instead of applying their minds to the means of conferring this great boon on a large and over-worked class, the committee have indulged in the cheap kindness of giving the Matron (who in the ordinary way is absent from the Hospital five months out of the twelve) an extra month's leave on account of the additional trouble she has been put to by what is called the "attack" on the Hospital! Thoughtful of their Matron's welfare in the minutest detail—(it is a pity that the Committee cannot extend a like tender care on the Nurses)—they have not only given her an extra month's leave, but have voted £50 to pay her expenses and give her a pleasant holiday. Such ready generosity is a little out of keeping with the rigid desire for economy which stands in the way of every improvement in the Nursing arrangements. Further, there is no sign of repentance yet of the bad habit of sending uncertificated Probationers out of the Wards to nurse private cases; and from the point of view of the public wanting Nurses there is nothing reassuring in the excuse that the Probationers thus sent to them are sometimes sent as being overworked and in want of an airing."

THE *Lancet* reports:—"Mr. J. H. Buxton presided at the quarterly Court of Governors of this Hospital on Wednesday last, and in moving the adoption of the report, took occasion to correct an error he made at the last meeting in reference to the number of Nurses who had been dismissed by the Matron. What he should have said was that eight engagements had been terminated by the Matron during the last two years. On the subject of Nursing he had nothing to say except that it had been very much in the minds of the committee, who were

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