

National Health Society.

President :—HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF WESTMINSTER, K.G.



At Wem, Shropshire, Miss Read, one of the lecturers of the National Health Society, recently finished a series of Nursing lectures to an audience composed chiefly of working women. The lectures were promoted by Mrs. Clegg, who is the local representative of the Female Technical Education Committee of Salop County Council, and proved highly successful. Eleven candidates for the Nursing Certificate presented themselves eventually for examination, and all passed. This result is the more gratifying that the greater number were women belonging to the agricultural and artizan classes, whose desire to learn in the scanty leisure of their busy and monotonous lives, speaks well for their intelligence and determination.

Miss Dunbar, another lecturer of the Society, is engaged at present on a course of Homely Talks on Health, addressed to men and women of the agricultural and artizan classes in Chelmsford. Miss Orpen, who, at Colchester, last autumn, gave a highly successful Cookery course, has been invited by the Female Technical Education Committee of the County Council to repeat her lectures, and has gone to Colchester for the purpose.

On the 16th February Miss Dunbar will conclude the afternoon and evening course on Home Nursing, which she has been delivering at Bexley and Bexley Heath alternately.

The Syllabuses of the Lenten Lectures, to be delivered at 53, Berners Street, W., are now ready and can be had on application to the Secretary of the National Health Society. On February 13th and 27th, and on March 13th, Miss Stacpoole will give Homely Talks at Miss Shillitoe's Mothers' Meeting, G 10, Portman Mansions, where the success she met with lately on a similar occasion at Mrs. Chappell's, Drury Lane, will undoubtedly be repeated. The above Talks are given by the Society free of charge.

The introductory Lectures, given by Miss Henrietta Kenealy at Mrs. Jopling's School of Art, Logan Place, Earl's Court Road, was listened to with the greatest attention by an audience of fifty ladies; and it is anticipated that similar interest will be aroused by a series to be delivered by Sister Katherine (formerly of St. Bartholomew's Hospital), at 1, Orme Square, Hyde Park, W. (by kind permission of the Countess de Hamel de Manin), beginning on Thursday, February 8th, at 11.30 a.m. The introductory Lecture will, as usual, have reference to the Sick-room, Bed, and Nurse,

Our Foreign Letter.

AUCKLAND HOSPITAL, NEW ZEALAND.

IT is now over ten years since the advisability of trying a female staff of Nurses was suggested. Miss Crisp, a Sister in Netley Hospital, England, was appointed Lady Superintendent, with a small staff of female Nurses, some of whom had been trained in Hospitals in England.

As the trained Nurses left, their places were filled by untrained girls who were taught in the wards by the Charge Nurses and Lady Superintendent.

From 1883 to 1888 there was no system of training, no lectures or working for examinations, but plenty of hard work and practical teaching in the wards. In 1888, the first course of lectures on Anatomy, Physiology, and Nursing, were given. It was also decided to employ a limited number of Probationers; these Probationers were required to give their services for one year, and to provide the ordinary uniform of an Assistant Nurse in return for the training received by them in the Hospital. They were required to undertake day and night duty, and to do the same work as the Assistant Nurses. At the end of the year an examination was held. Probationers who successfully passed received a certificate to that effect, and, unless there was a vacancy on the permanent staff, left the Hospital as a trained Nurse; they then started in Private Nursing on their own account, or tried to get into another Hospital.

The number of Probationers gradually increased up to 1890, when it was decided by the Hospital Board that a limited number of Probationers should be re-appointed for a second year, and should receive a salary of £20 per annum.

In 1892, it was decided that the term of training should be two years, and that no certificate should be granted for a shorter term.

In 1893, the Honorary Medical Staff and I represented to the Hospital Board that the Auckland Nurses were labouring under a great disadvantage in the term of training being limited to two years, and that the Royal British Nurses' Association could neither register nor admit them as members. The Board favourably considered the subject, and now the Auckland Hospital neither admits Probationers nor grants certificates of competency in Nursing for a shorter period than three years.

Such, briefly, is the history of Nursing in Auckland for the last ten years.

The Auckland Hospital is fortunate in having an Honorary Medical Visiting Staff who not only give their time and skill to the patients, but are also ready and willing to support any scheme for the welfare and advancement of the Nursing staff.

During the first and second year, lectures are given by the Resident Surgeon, Physician, and Lady Superintendent. In the third year, the Honorary Staff have kindly volunteered to lecture on more advanced subjects.

G. M. C. B., M.R.B.N.A.,
Lady Superintendent.

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