

staff numbered thirty-two, including twenty-five private Nurses, two district Nurses working in Wolverhampton, and five Probationers in training at various hospitals. The appeal for funds for the erecting of a permanent home has been so well met by the public, that a site has been purchased, and a tender has been accepted for the building. The district Nurses in Wolverhampton nursed nearly 500 patients, and the report made by the inspector of nursing sent by the Queen's Jubilee Institute was most satisfactory.

ON July 28th the new School for Deaf and Dumb Children of North and East Lancashire was opened by the Earl of DERBY. The School is situated near Preston, and is capable of accommodating fifty patients, and has been erected by public subscription, the late Miss MARY CROSS, with a donation of £5,000, being the chief subscriber.

THE judgment in the case of the Queen *v.* the Mayor and Corporation of Rawtenstall, which was given on Wednesday last, is one of considerable importance as defining clearly the position of Infectious Hospitals towards the inhabitants of boroughs. It has been laid down by the Court that the Corporation were bound to receive in their Hospital, and recover payment from them (or, in the case of paupers, from the Guardians), all inhabitants of the borough suffering from infectious diseases.

DR. WIGGLESWORTH, the medical superintendent at Rainhill Asylum, near Liverpool, was last Tuesday going his rounds in the men's wards, when an inmate suddenly sprang on him and stabbed him in the neck with a knife which he had concealed up his sleeve. The wound is dangerous, but at midnight the doctor was progressing as favourably as could be expected under the care of Dr. DAMER HARRISON, of Liverpool. The assailant was promptly secured by the attendants.

ON Tuesday last, the eighth International Ophthalmological Congress began its sittings in Edinburgh. The president, Dr. ARGYLL ROBERTSON, delivered opening address and congratulated the members on the flourishing prospects of the congress, which retained its full vitality and vigour. The Lord Provost welcomed the conference to Edinburgh. Communications were read by various members. Amongst those who took part in the proceedings were Professor Snellen, Utrecht; Professor Knapp, New York; Dr. Little, Manchester; Mr. Swanzy, Dublin; Professor Hansen Grut, Copenhagen; Mr. Priestly Smith, Birmingham; Professor Antonelli, Naples. In the evening a *conversazione* was given by the corporation in honour of the congress.

Matrons in Council.

WHAT IS A TRAINED NURSE?



MADAM,—THIS question is continually, and with increasing urgency, coming to the front. It must be said that the answers are often most unsatisfactory. A doctor has the mystic lettering to his name. A chemist has a regular routine to follow, with the requisite examinations to conclude his course. Cannot a Nurse be hall-marked in the same way too? When the vicar of a country parish wants a Nurse, or a private family require one in sudden illness, how are they to proceed to choose her? They are altogether ignorant of their necessary virtues and the knowledge they ought to possess. They are merely aware of the importance attached to a Hospital training. But anyone behind the scenes will tell them that there are Hospitals and Hospitals, and diversities of training great and manifold.

Many women call themselves trained Nurses—and in one sense with perfect truth—who have passed a year at an obscure and frequently half empty Cottage Hospital. Perhaps it held six beds when fully occupied, and the young Probationer's spare time has been filled up with district visiting. If you inquire at all closely into such an one's attainments, or even stock of general knowledge, the result will horrify, if it does not surprise, you. Or perhaps you may come across a young Pro. from the Union Infirmary. She will tell you frankly that she has given up all bookwork lately. She used to have two hours *or so* each day, and the Head Nurse used sometimes to help her with advice or general instruction during meal-time. Lately they have been so busy in the wards, and so tired at other times; that it has all been put by for the present. Query? When will it be resumed? Another girl—and all these are real cases, cases taken from life, says dolefully:—"I can't get those different bone names any way into my head; and Nurse P. wont bother with me any longer. I must try later on what I can do."

Thus the head work, absolutely necessary as it is, the fitting counter-part to actual experience, is done or left undone, precisely as the young Nurse herself decides. What would come of a Pupil-teacher's lessons or examinations if these also were voluntary? Would it be surprising if they also were left unheeded? The first beginnings of apprenticeship in every trade are usually trying. In the Nurse's work, the indoor life is exceptionally so. The result therefore is as natural as it is nearly universal. Except in large towns and places of especial enlightenment, the matter is almost totally neglected. Even the names of the various instruments, with the commoner complaints and usual mode of treatment, are rarely systematically taught. All is left to chance, and individual industry.

Now, that experience, if really wide and far-reaching, is of the utmost value, goes without saying. Something else, however, is necessary. "Old Mrs. Gamp" was often most experienced, as far as actual experience goes. The number and variety of cases she had seen

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