



### Our Letter from Holland.

A SHORT time ago we had a remarkable feast in our Dutch nursing-world, because the house of deaconesses at Utrecht celebrated its golden jubilee. This fact is the more interesting, as the above-named institution is the first of its kind in our country. Since its foundation numerous establishments of the same tendency have been erected in several other cities in Holland, but Utrecht may glory in the honour of having first of all lodged a house of deaconesses within its walls. At the beginning of the second quarter of this century, a renewed religious life began to manifest itself in the Protestant Church. *Réveil* was the name, given to that highly foaming current in the world of religion, which found its way through nearly all the Protestant States of Europe. To its influence it must be owned that the hearts of men were penetrated by the mortifying conviction, that the care of the poor, the old ones and the orphans, was neglected, that the nursing of the sick was not at all what it ought to be, and that the Protestant Church was standing, in this regard, far behind the Catholic one. Thus the *Réveil* led to the foundation of houses of deaconesses in several countries. We will here only mention those at Paris and Kaiserswerth. On November 4th, 1844, the inauguration of the house of deaconesses at Utrecht took place. Since that time it has been greatly enlarged. At this moment it may rejoice in a very flourishing state. That this most useful Institution may glory in the sympathy of many, was proved by the general interest excited by the celebration of its fifty years' existence. A large number of letters and telegrams were received, not only from different parts of our country, but also from Germany, France and Switzerland. The whole building was decorated in a most charming way. I will not worry my kind English readers with the reiteration of all that was said and spoken upon the occasion, but I cannot leave unmentioned the fact, that the Nestor of our poets, the octogenarian Beets—also "a grand old man"—delivered an eloquent speech, which did not fail to touch deeply the whole audience. The celebration of this golden jubilee has left a powerful impression upon the public.

In your English papers you will surely have read enough of the Lombok war, in which our Indian army has gloriously triumphed. Many are, however, the victims claimed by the demon of death and destruction. As an angel of charity and consolation the Red Cross has raised there its banner. From all sides pecuniary gifts have flowed in rich abundance in order to promote the work of this philanthropic society. Many wounds have been healed, many sorrows have

been softened. The charitable element, so distinctly outspoken in the Dutch national character, has maintained itself worthily.

The Commission for Social Interests of the Dutch Bond of Protestants has taken in hand the work of District Nursing. District Nursing, as it is practised in the British Empire, is nearly unknown in Holland. As yet it has been only exercised by the deaconesses on orthodox, dogmatical principles. The above-named Commission aims to bring about in our country District Nursing on the lines of your Queen's Jubilee Institute. Therefore it will enable already certificated nurses to receive their training as district nurses in England—at least for the present. When its expectations are realised, it hopes to be able to give the nurses the opportunity to be trained as district nurses in their own country. Justice commands us to declare, that our English sisters are in this regard by far our superiors. This acknowledgment must stimulate us to follow their example. The Commission for Social Interests of the Dutch Bond of Protestants is evidently of the same opinion. It has been fortunate enough to obtain the valuable support of a Dutch nurse, who has received her training in an English nursing school. Since October 15th, 1893, Miss Kruijsse—so is the name of the lady above-mentioned, a "Queen's Nurse"—has been working at Zwolle. When the noble efforts of the Commission are crowned with the wished for result, District Nursing, as it is known to, and practised by, our English sisters—will be spread over our whole country. The great blessing, flowing forth from this branch of sick-nursing, will be acknowledged by all who possess a warm heart for their suffering fellow-creatures, living in want and misery. Thus the resolution, taken by the Commission for Social Interests, may be productive of great blessings to the sick poor, and 1895, the as yet still veiled deity, may bring in this respect what so many are expecting from it.

At its last meeting on December 18th, the management of the Dutch Association for the Treatment of the Sick elected as Chairman Dr. Stephan, in order to replace the resigning president, Dr. Blooker. To those hospitals and similar institutions, that have a course of training for nurses, the Management has sent the following Circular:—

"The Management of the Dutch Association for Treatment of the Sick has the honour of asking if your Management proposes to accede to the Association, by which you put yourself under the obligation of arranging your examinations according to the stipulations made at the General Meeting of May, 1894, especially the condition that the candidates must supply proofs that they have followed a complete course of instruction in sick-nursing, and that they have been also practically at work for the time of three years consecutively, of which one year at least must have been spent in a general hospital or in a children's hospital, in which, besides the physician, a resident superintendent of nursing is employed.

"Only those persons can obtain a certificate for a special branch of nursing, who are already in the possession of the certificate for general sick nursing. In case the candidate fulfils the above-mentioned conditions concerning the general examination, and the special examination includes at the same time the general sick nursing, the obtaining of a certificate for a special branch is also possible.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)