

general records, of work and conduct, and six schools present to each pupil, on completing with credit her full course of training, a sum of 75 dols. or 100 dols.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all those superintendents who, by their courteous and full replies to my long list of questions, have greatly assisted me in preparing this report.

### Professional Review.

WE have received from the publisher, Mr. George Newnes, of 8, Southampton Street, Strand, a copy of "Pioneer Women in Victoria's Reign," by Edwin A. Pratt. The author in his introductory remarks modestly tells us that "there is no idea of dealing in this volume with the whole scope of women's work during the Victorian Era. This would indeed be a herculean task to attempt; at the same time Mr. Pratt has collected a quantity of interesting and useful information which he has given to the public in a moderately-sized and very readable volume.

The subjects treated of, include Employments for Women, Emigration, the Higher Education of Women, Pioneer Women Doctors, Nursing, a Pioneer in Poor Law Reform, the Pioneer of Trained Workhouse Nursing, Organised Philanthropy, Associations for Girls and Young Women, a Blind Leader of the Blind, and Pioneer Workers for Soldiers and Sailors, from which it will be seen that the plan of the work is on broad lines, and is sufficiently inclusive, though we are fain to wish that a volume treating of nursing had contained some reference to the organisation of nurses into a profession, the distinction they enjoy of being the first body of women to whom a Royal Charter has been granted, and the introduction of the three years system of training now almost universally adopted by hospitals of repute.

The history of the struggles of pioneer women, both in the direction of obtaining higher education, and the right to obtain medical degrees, is in the highest degree significant, and full of hope for the younger profession of nursing, which is now going through a period of opposition and misrepresentation similar to that which was endured by the pioneer women doctors. It is noteworthy that when the University Court at Edinburgh resolved, as it did in January, 1872, that it would take no further steps to enable the ladies to pursue their studies with a view to a degree, that these ladies brought an action against the University authorities, with the object of compelling these authorities to afford them an opportunity of completing their studies. The action failed, on the ground that an illegal act had been committed at the outset by the University Court in admitting ladies at all, and they were obliged to pay legal expenses amounting to £844. But the women persevered, and in the end established, notwithstanding much opposition, their right to examination by the various medical examining bodies. Where they have led the way, other women may, and will, follow. History repeats itself. We advise our readers to obtain and read "Pioneer Women." They will, if they read between the lines, take "heart of grace," and realise that all demands made by women, which are based on just and equitable principles, must be granted to them. It is merely a matter of time.

### Nursing Echoes.

\* \* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



It is well known that the nurses of the Poplar Hospital for Accidents work under exceptionally happy conditions, owing to the thoughtfulness of the Chairman of the Hospital, the Hon. Sydney Holland, whose consideration for their well-being is but another evidence of the kindness and sympathy which he extends to "all sorts and conditions of men." Even from a commercial point of view, Mr. Holland is of opinion that it answers to treat nurses generously. In the report of the Committee of Management for last year, he says:

"Miss Bland, the Matron, and the nursing staff under her, continue to give every possible satisfaction. We have tried to make the conditions of service for our nurses fair and reasonable, and to study their comfort. Although no bargain is suggested, and it would spoil the spirit of all hospital work if it were even thought of, we believe that we are, as a fact, repaid over and over again by having a loyal and devoted staff, and we think we may add, a happy one; certainly our nurses are better in health for the longer time off duty which they now have. It is a miserable policy to run a hospital at the expense of its nurses. We believe that the patients directly benefit almost as much as the nurses themselves, by giving nurses every week the opportunity of a full half-day's rest, and every month 60 hours right away from the wards."

WHATEVER may be said in favour of fancy dress balls on behalf of charities, there can be no doubt that it is desirable that the costumes worn on these occasions should be selected with some degree of consideration as to their suitability for the occasion. We observe, in a contemporary, an illustration of a fancy dress ball which took place at the Crystal Palace in aid of the nursing branch of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association. In it is depicted a Sister of Charity in the habit, collar, and veil of her Order, whirling round in the "giddy dance" in the arms of a gay cavalier, in a large hat, with characteristic feather. Surely if this sketch is true to life—and we have no reason to suppose it is not—the lady who adopted the "saintly garb" of the *filles-dieu* as her costume for a fancy dress ball, was singularly ill-advised, and totally wanting in the perception of "the fitness of things."

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