

Metropolitan and National Nursing Association. This new movement was initiated by the Council of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and placed on a permanent basis by Lady Strange-ford, Sir Edmund Lechmere, Mr. Wigram, and other ladies and gentlemen. The help of the Duke of Westminster was asked for, and obtained, and a valuable report was drawn up after nine months of enquiry, which showed that the number of nurses at that time employed in district nursing was very inadequate. The objects of the Association were stated to be :

(1) To train and provide a body of skilled nurses to nurse the sick poor in their own homes.

(2) To establish in the Metropolis, and to assist in establishing in the country, district organisations for this purpose.

(3) To establish a training school for district nurses in connection with one of the London hospitals.

(4) To raise, by all means in its power, the standard of nursing, and the social position of nurses.

The plan of education proposed was that the candidates, who were selected by the Superintendent-General, should remain in the Central Home for a month, to learn the general nature of district nursing; they then received a year's hospital training, and upon the expiration of this, if the accounts from the head of the training school were satisfactory, the probationers returned to the Central Home, and received training for six months in district work, as well as theoretical instruction, when their training was considered complete. Five-and-twenty years ago, no doubt the proposed training constituted a thorough curriculum, but it is much to be regretted that this Association still demands no higher standard of its nurses, though the advances made in nursing education during this time have been enormous.

The next step in the progress of district nursing is most important. In 1887, the women of England raised a subscription of over £70,000 as their gift to the Queen at her Jubilee. The greater part of this sum was devoted by the Queen to placing the work of district nursing on a national basis; the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute was founded (the Duke of Westminster, Sir James Paget, and Sir Rutherford Alcock, being appointed by the Queen the trustees of the Institution), and the district nurses, working under it, received the hall-mark of the approval of their Sovereign by being called "Queen's Nurses." St. Katherine's Hospital, Regent's Park, of which the Queen is patron, was with her approval, made the headquarters of the Institute, and on September 20th a Royal Charter was issued, giving to the Institute a corporate existence.

There are now branches of the Q.V.J.I. in all parts of Great Britain and Ireland. Each country has a superintendent of nursing, while the whole work is superintended by a General-Inspector, whose headquarters are at St. Katherine's Hospital. The benefit which the Queen has conferred upon her poorer subjects by this gift is incalculable, and the kindly sympathy which prompted this gift has forged yet another link in the chain which rivets the hearts of the British people to that of their Sovereign.

WORKHOUSE NURSING.

In any notice dealing with the reformation of nursing in our Workhouse Infirmaries, the name of one woman, Miss Agnes Jones, must always stand out conspicuously. Miss Agnes Jones, who was the daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Jones of the 12th Regiment, was born at Cambridge on November 10th, 1832, and owing to her father's profession, her early life was somewhat a roving one. As an infant she was so fragile that no one expected her to live, and up to the time that she was two years old she was very delicate, but after this, during a visit of some months to Ireland, the native country of both her parents, she grew strong and healthy, and was full of the vitality which was her life-long characteristic. It was during a visit to the Continent in 1853 that Miss Jones first became acquainted with Kaiserwerth, with which she was afterwards to become so closely associated. Her journal, referring to this visit, contains the following sentence:—"As we drove away my great wish was that this should not be my last visit to Kaiserwerth." It was not, however, until 1860 that the opportunity of entering that Institution for training, for which she had waited so long, occurred, and with her usual thoroughness she threw herself into all the works of the deaconesses in this Institution; but her greatest delight was to work in the hospitals, and she daily became increasingly certain that her vocation was to nurse. She remained at Kaiserwerth about seven months, and always remembered in after years with gratitude, the lessons in discipline, as well as the actual training, which she received there. On leaving Kaiserwerth, Miss Agnes Jones for some time worked in London with Mrs. Ranyard of the "Bible Mission," and for a time put on one side the thought of hospital work, chiefly because of her mother's strong objection to her undertaking it. In October, 1862, the opportunity to enter St. Thomas's Hospital as a Nightingale probationer offered, and Miss Agnes Jones at once embraced it, and went through her year's probationership. She next accepted the position of superintendent of a

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