

annual custom, to those of the ratepayers and their friends who may be interested in it. The building was gay with bunting, and the whole as neat and clean as a new pin. The visitors were received by Mr. Joseph Thornley, chairman of the Visiting Committee; Mr. Charles C. Fuller, vice-chairman; Dr. Arthur Chilcot, Miss E. J. Moir, matron; and Mr. Creager, steward. During the afternoon the patients, numbering some 500, were entertained in the various wards by a company of volunteer helpers, who catered most satisfactorily for their amusement.

HUMAN nature is, we are told, the same all the world over, and apparently the instincts of nurses are the same also. In 1854, when an application was made to St. John's House, Norfolk Street, for nurses to go to Scutari to nurse the wounded soldiers, it is recorded that "several of the nurses expressed entire willingness to go." This was at a time when nursing discipline and organisation were quite in their infancy, so that to volunteer for active service abroad was a new and untried venture, and it is greatly to the credit of the nurses of that day that there was no lack of volunteers. It is interesting to learn the names of these pioneer workers. They were Nurses Lawfield, Fagg, Higgins, Drake, Coyle, and Bourne. It was arranged by the St. John's House Council, that ordinary rules should be in abeyance, and that the six nurses, for this time of special service, should be under the authority of Miss Nightingale, who made herself responsible for all due care of them. It is interesting to notice also that the application for the services of these nurses was made on October 14th, and on October 23rd they left London for Scutari, so that even thirty years ago nursing arrangements were effected with a considerable amount of the promptitude upon which all good organisers pride themselves, when the interests of the sick are at stake.

Later in the year, on December 2nd, a second party of nurses left St. John's House for the seat of war. They were Nurse Woodward, Probationer Sansom, Miss Smyth, and Miss Polidori. We are glad to be able to publish the names of these nurses. Women are often accused of a lack of appreciation of one another, sometimes with justice, and we are glad to be able to give "honour where honour is due." The strain upon these brave workers appears to have been exceptionally severe, for two out of the ten died in the Crimea, Miss E. A. Smyth and Mrs. Drake.

The early years of St. John's House were eventful ones, for in 1854 cholera was very prevalent in London, and the services of the nurses were requisitioned; then came the de-

mand for the Crimea. In the early part of the following year nurses were despatched to Smyrna, and in 1856 St. John's House undertook the nursing of King's College Hospital. We read that "the lady superior, three sisters, and ten nurses removed to King's College Hospital, in the hope of improving the condition of the patients in the wards which have been all consigned to their care."

It is interesting to note that within the first few years of the establishment of the institution it was proposed to take a house which should be used as a sanatorium, and in which the nurses might be taught the niceties of private nursing. Daily nurses were also sent out as early as 1849, so that this institution led the way as a pioneer in private nursing, hospital nursing, army nursing, and daily nursing.

NURSE McLAREN, who has been for over twenty-four years in the service of the General Hospital, Wolverhampton, was recently presented with an illuminated address, beautifully framed, by some of the employes of the London and North-Western Railway Company, engaged at the high level station, Wolverhampton, and their friends, who have been patients in the male accident ward in which Nurse McLaren is charge nurse.

WE referred in a recent issue to the friction existing in the Wigan Workhouse between the Master and Nurse Pittman. The following resolution of the Workhouse Committee has now been confirmed by the Board of Guardians:—

"Resolved, that the Committee having inquired into the charges made by the master against Nurse Pittman, are of opinion that the charges are not all proved, but that they cannot exonerate the nurse from the charge of insubordination. They are also of opinion that the master, by his weakness of character, is largely responsible for the constant friction among the officials, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Local Government Board."

The opinion was also expressed that the unpleasant incidents would never cease until there was a thorough investigation by a disinterested party, and also that it was impossible to put things right in the house without the help of the Local Government Board.

WE have received the June issue of *Asylum News*, and we congratulate the editor upon the admirable tone and aim of the journal. It is refreshing to read a journal, issued for members of an association of attendants upon the sick, in which the readers are addressed as reasonable beings, and not as if their mental capacity was on a par with that of the inmates of institutions which are maintained for persons of deficient in-

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