

It is satisfactory to notice that the Lincolnshire Nursing Association has, under the able presidency of Lady Winchilsea, been able to record most satisfactory progress, and the fact that a growing appreciation of the value of the work of the Association is felt throughout the county. We regret, however, that the annual meeting of this Association has been unavoidably postponed, owing to the absence abroad, through illness, of the President. All our readers, who appreciate the good work done by Lady Winchilsea, will unite in hoping that her health may be speedily restored.

WE understand that the Countess of Ancaster is taking considerable interest in forming Village Nursing Associations in the Bourne district of Lincolnshire. These have already proved a great benefit to the cottagers.

At the Lincoln County Hospital, we hear that all the patients, who were able, dined upon pheasants, rabbits, and plum pudding on Christmas Day. The male patients afterwards smoked in the out-patients' room, while the women (the habit of women smoking not having apparently penetrated to this hospital), indulged in a tea party, followed by Mrs. Jarley's waxworks, which were most successfully performed by the Nursing Staff. Tea parties also took place at a later date in the male and children's wards, when a Christmas tree, and a repetition of Mrs. Jarley's waxworks afforded much pleasure.

AMONG the recipients of the Maidstone Medal were several of the nurses of the Salvation Army connected with Maternity work in the London slums.

PRINCESS LOUISE will receive purses for the endowment of the Nurses' Institute at Birkenhead, during her brief visit to the town on the 21st inst.

MISS MICHIE, the County Superintendent of the Cornwall County Association, recently delivered an address on "Village Nursing" at the Penwith Branch of the Association, Penzance. The Penwith Branch is a new one, and a nurse is about to be supplied by the Association, so Miss Michie wisely explained the conditions under which the nurse would be engaged. The value of such lectures, in bringing before local centres the need of district nurses, and the lines on which they work, is very great, and Miss Michie is to be congratulated on the course which she is adopting in Cornwall.

LADY ANNE MURRAY has placed the services of a trained nurse at the disposal of the poor of

Lochcarron, in commemoration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

A COMPLAINT was recently made to the Elgin Town Council that the Matron of Gray's Hospital refused to appoint Roman Catholics as nurses, when a letter was read from the trustees stating that there were no rules authorizing the matron to take such action. We have always consistently maintained that the selection of nurses should be made on unsectarian lines. Professional suitability, and not religious tests, should, in our opinion, be the only consideration in selecting probationers.

A CORRESPONDENT from St. Petersburg writes:—

"I went the other day to see the Alexandra Hospital here, and thought you might like to hear a little about it. It is a hospital for men only, and is divided into three parts, medical and surgical, and the third part is kept for chronic cases. It was opened some ten years ago with twenty-four beds; now there are one hundred and thirty. It is not a free hospital, although the matron, Miss Moretz, told me that at present they have thirty patients who are either quite free, or who pay so little that it does not cover the cost of their board. It was started by Dr. Moretz, and is a German institution, though men of all nationalities are received; it is meant not for the poor—there are many big Russian hospitals for them—but for a better class, for whom the free hospitals are too rough. The scale of payment varies from the gentleman who has a room to himself, to the poor man who has a bed in a ward, but no ward holds more than six beds, and there is also a large out-patient department open to both sexes at the nominal charge of one shilling a patient. The best German and Russian doctors and surgeons can be seen at this hospital at stated hours, and it is so arranged that there is always a thoroughly qualified man on the spot.

"There is a large garden—an old garden that was well taken care of long before the hospital was thought of—and large verandas, but of course these are useless all through the winter. The nursing staff is mixed—male and female. There is Miss Moretz herself, the beloved head of everything, doing much of the nursing herself, and the only nurse who speaks English; there are three sisters, one in charge of each division of the hospital; there are trained male nurses under them, and there are untrained ward maids. I asked Miss Moretz whether this arrangement always worked well, and she said she had had a good deal of trouble at first in organizing it.

"The hospital was spotlessly clean, and the theatre and dressing room ideal in their arrangements, but to one accustomed to the tidiness of an English hospital the beds were rather startling, and so were the patients. I do not mean that anything was dirty or torn, but they were untidy, and it did not seem to strike anyone that they ought to be different. There is plenty of space in the hospital, large dining-rooms and library, and the passages are broad and pretty. The air, too, was pure and good though rather warm (they keep 66 degrees in the halls and passages, and 77 degrees in the theatre); surprisingly good, when we consider the severe frost outside which makes open windows an

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)