

pleasure of a rare evening, spent in refined surroundings, where the voices are educated and cultivated, the music of a high type, and the colouring of the surroundings harmonious, while the soft light streams through rose and other coloured shades, and the pretty dresses worn by the visitors are a real pleasure to colour loving nurses, accustomed to uniforms and workhouse clothes, as part of the usual daily routine.

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THE chair was occupied by Dr. Savill, and the medals were presented by Lady Wantage, in the absence of the Hon. Mrs. J. G. Talbot, who was prevented from attending by the death of Mr. Gladstone. Amongst those present were Lady Belhaven and Stenton, and Dr. Downes, Medical Inspector, Local Government Board. The exceptionally bad weather kept away many who would otherwise have been present.

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THE following are the nurses, trained by the Association, who received its medal:—Rachel Burrowes, Fordingbridge Workhouse Infirmary, Hants; Margaret Cochrane, Portsmouth Workhouse Infirmary; Jane Hill, Cheltenham Workhouse Infirmary; Cecilia Evelyn Jones, Portsmouth Workhouse Infirmary; Fanny Martin, Plymouth Workhouse Infirmary; Helen Oliver, Brentwood Union Infirmary; Kate Penson, Kettering Workhouse Infirmary; Florence Silver, Plymouth Workhouse Infirmary; Edith Skinner, Paddington Infirmary; Mary Annie Tarling, Portsmouth Workhouse Infirmary; Charlotte Webster, Dorking Workhouse Infirmary; Emma Rosaline White, Newton Abbot Workhouse Infirmary. Louisa Mary Graham, recently appointed Superintendent Nurse at Farnham Workhouse Infirmary, and Gertrude Sharpe, Upton-upon-Severn Workhouse Infirmary, who were not trained at the expense of the Association, received gratuities, in addition to medals.

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THE St. John's Debating Society, a flourishing little association, met recently to discuss the much vexed question of matrimony, when some excellent papers were read on the subject. The opinion was expressed that the position of woman with regard to matrimony was somewhat changed. Formerly it was almost the only vocation open to her, and she looked forward, on entering upon it, to a position of a certain amount of freedom which she did not have in her father's house. But now, women had made many paths for themselves in life, and the workers at least did not gain greater liberty, but gave up a great deal when they married. They frequently gave up lives which had been full of interests and freedom, for those which were more or less commonplace and humdrum. Men did not always realize the sacrifices women made

for them, and it would be well if they did do so, and understood that they had no right to expect that a woman should give up all her individuality of thought, and action, and conscience, when she married. A marriage based on mutual love, sympathy, and understanding, was perhaps the happiest vocation for both man and woman, but when a man expected a woman to merge her personality entirely in his, the position, to a woman of individuality, became a martyrdom.

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ONE member expressed the opinion that the marriage laws required alteration, and that, doubtless, as women accepted more and more their public responsibilities, and still more when they obtained the franchise, these alterations would be made.

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It is especially interesting to notice the vitality of St. John's House and its nursing staff, as this year the institution celebrates its Jubilee. St. John's House ranks as a pioneer in the higher education of nurses, as it was founded in 1848 "to improve the qualifications, and to raise the character of nurses for the sick in hospitals, among the poor, and in private families, by providing for them professional training, together with moral and religious discipline." The standard of nursing maintained by the House has always been a high one, and from time to time has been raised as nursing education has advanced. For some time past the three years' standard of training has been required of all nurses before they are placed upon the private staff. The midwifery training formerly given by this institution was exceptionally excellent, and the midwives of St. John's House are perhaps typical of the midwife, or obstetric nurse, as she will be evolved in the future, a trained nurse, with a sound knowledge of midwifery, working as the assistant, and not the competitor of the medical man.

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It is an interesting fact that St. John's House sent out nurses, who did excellent work, in both the Crimean and the recent Græco-Turkish wars, the only nurse-training institution of which this can be said. In the smallpox epidemic at Gloucester, and the typhoid epidemic at Maidstone the work of the nurses was also much appreciated. The traditions of the House have always impressed upon the staff the value and necessity of the little refinements and niceties of nursing which are often neglected in these days of show and skurry. The fact that the patient, and not the nurse, is the important person in a sick room is also one which is instilled into the probationers from their earliest days, and which bears fruit in producing excellent private nurses devoted to the interests of their patients,

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