

pointing out the urgent needs of that institution:—"Last year," he says, "569 patients were received into the wards, whilst the out-patients numbered 14,192, and the attendances 43,874. The severe strain of the many funds in connection with the war is now being most acutely felt, and the receipts this year have been insufficient to meet current expenses. The amount of income derived from investments is only £16 per annum, whereas the expenditure exceeds £3,000. The hospital is situated in a very poor district, and further east than any other of its kind in London. Substantial help must soon be received, if the work of the institution is not to be curtailed."

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A NURSE, in a contemporary, asks a pertinent question with regard to the defective eyesight of children. She calls attention to the type of perambulator which is at present in vogue, in which the children are placed on their backs, staring at the sky, and asks if this may not be the cause of weak eyes in after years. Even to the adult eye, it is exceedingly trying to be gazing into the sky for any prolonged period, and parents and guardians of children who place their young charges in the modern perambulator would do well to provide the vehicle with proper shades.

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A NURSE writes to the press suggesting that when a popular preacher occupies the pulpit, seats should be found for nurses in uniform, because they cannot leave duty sufficiently early to secure a seat—this *apropos* of the visit of "Ian MacLaren" to Newcastle, where he preached at Jesmond Presbyterian Church. This suggestion seems to us a little unreasonable. Of course, we all know nurses are standing for long hours on duty, and, in consequence, cannot with comfort stand through a lengthy service; but if the uniform of a nurse is to provide her with a free seat at all places of worship, we fear it would establish a precedent which would be impossible to follow. How about the tired nurses who do not wear out-door uniform?

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THE Secretary for Scotland has given a definite pronouncement as to the propriety of local authorities contributing to the funds of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses out of public funds. He is of opinion that, upon certain conditions, such a donation is a proper application of funds placed at the disposal of local authorities under Section 2 of the Education and Local Taxation Account Act.

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MISS MACKENZIE, of Woodbine Cottage, Tain, Inverness, was recently publicly presented with a

purse of sovereigns by the inhabitants in recognition of her valuable services in connection with the Tain District Nursing Association. The presentation was made by Provost Fowler, who then called upon Mrs. Fowler, of Mansfield, to bear witness to Miss Mackenzie's faithful discharge of her duties. Mrs. Fowler said she spoke from experience of their guest's excellent nursing capabilities, and could not speak too highly. Now that Nurse Mackenzie had severed her connection with the Association, it was only to be hoped that she would find in their midst a good field for her services as a private nurse. So long as the Tain District Nursing Association worked its rules as it did, it could never be successful, for on that account a large portion of the community could not avail themselves of the services of its nurse. Mrs. Macbean Ross, Craigdarroch, also spoke in appreciation of Nurse Mackenzie, and said the gift just conveyed to her had been cheerfully contributed. "We felt it not only a pleasure," she added, "but our bounden duty to give this token of our appreciation to Miss Mackenzie, particularly on account of the special circumstances of her dismissal from the Association, and thus to enter our protest against that unjustifiable act." The bag containing the money bore the following inscription:—"Presented to Nurse Mackenzie along with a purse of sovereigns, by the inhabitants of Tain, in recognition of her valuable services in connection with Tain District Nursing Association." In the course of her reply, Nurse Mackenzie said:—"In quitting my connection with the Nursing Association, it is pleasant to think that I do so carrying with me the goodwill and sympathy of the people of Tain, among whom my life practically has been spent; and I know that, no matter where my lot may be cast in the future, I shall not meet with truer friends or with more kindness than I have done here. I do not say, of course, that while I have acted as nurse to the Association it has been all pleasure, or that my position has been entirely a bed of roses. Like everybody else, I have had my troubles, but whatever troubles I may have had have been more than counterbalanced by the kindness I have received, and which has taken such tangible shape in this presentation, for which I ask you to accept my most hearty thanks."

It would seem that there has been some friction in the Tain Nursing Association. We hope, therefore, that Nurse Mackenzie's well-wishers have taken steps to protect her professional reputation; otherwise, a dismissal after a life spent in the service of an association may be misinterpreted by the world at large.

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