

Editorial.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S JUBILEE NURSES ENDOWMENT FUND.

W E are glad to see that the women members of the Council of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, headed by Miss Florence Nightingale, are, through the Press, inviting the women of the United Kingdom "to assist the appeal for the endowment of Queen's Nurses, which has already appeared." The letter points out that "the sum of money Her Majesty devoted to this object was given to her as a tribute of love and respect by the women of the United Kingdom on the occasion of her Jubilee in 1887. It is, therefore, all the more incumbent on us, as women, to help to continue, and, if possible, to endow, the noble work to which she gave that money."

It is fitting that women should publicly take their part in supporting and augmenting the work of the Jubilee Institute, the idea of which was originated by a woman subject of the late Queen, and it would be difficult to conceive a better or more practical way of perpetuating the memory of Her Majesty. In this connection we may mention that, though no branch of

nursing is more useful than that of nursing the poor in their own homes, more especially in outlying country districts, there is no class of nurses worse paid than isolated District Nurses, who are unattached to any central society. We know of at least one district nurse who receives a salary of 13s. a week, out of which she has to defray the cost of board, lodging, washing, shoe leather, and incidental expenses, and presumably to provide for her old age, and it is a common occurrence to see advertisements for District Nurses at an inclusive salary of £1 a week ; there is the more reason, therefore, that the organization of District Nursing should be gathered up by a central society which will ensure a living wage to a hardworking class of women.

Lastly, we hope that in extending the work of the Jubilee Institute the Council will see the necessity for adopting the three years' standard of training as a necessary qualification for admission to the ranks of this body. Women bearing the honoured name of Queen's Nurses should be an example of educational efficiency, and this is impossible so long as the Jubilee Institute accepts a lower minimum standard than that recognised as essential in the leading hospitals all the world over.



