

Dr. M'Vittie last week gave a most interesting and instructive lecture at the Nurses' Club, Dublin. The subject was, "Are we doing the best for our children?" and the lecture was illustrated by lantern slides. In the course of his remarks Dr. M'Vittie spoke of the Sloyd Schools in Hawkins Street, and kindly exhibited some of the carving and work done by the pupils. He urged all present to go and visit the schools, and see for themselves the work that was going on there.

Mlle. Maximilienne Biais has an exhaustive article in the *Fronde* on the International Evolution of the Profession of Nursing, in which she presents the case of the International Council with great skill and force. So far nursing, as we Anglo-Saxons understand it, does not exist in France, but Dr. Anna Hamilton's Treatise and her splendid pioneer work, is beginning to awaken the interest of Frenchwomen in nursing as a profession, and we all know the business grip of our sprightly neighbours once they take a matter in hand. With a daily paper such as the Paris *Fronde* devoted to their enlightenment and interests, we hope it will not be long before there is some form of national organisation of nurses which will be eligible to enter and take part in international nursing conferences.

Miss Lewthwaite, who is home from the far West of Canada, gives some practical information in *Women's Employment*, in hopes of inducing gentlewomen to go out from the old country as Domestic Helps to Western Canada. The crying need is for General Servants, be they gentlewomen or otherwise, and of Trained Nurses. She writes:—

"Trained Nurses are also in demand, but they too must be good *all-round* and able to look after themselves as well as their patients; for, unlike well-ordered establishments in more settled countries, there will be no housemaid or kitchenmaid to do any so-called menial work. There are two trained nurses in the locality I know best who are constantly employed, and often needed in three or four places at once. Payment is made at the rate of a dollar (four shillings) a day, with board and lodging; for a long engagement, however, some deduction is generally made."

We are not surprised to learn that born Canadian women of the upper classes do not migrate West, and we should not think that English trained nurses are likely to respond to such conditions of labour and remuneration. The Victorian Order of Canada is the right society to deal with sick nursing in the outlying portions of the Dominion, and it would be wise to communicate with Miss McLeod, its Superintendent, at Ottawa, before setting forth in search of employment in the land of our Lady of Snows.

The Hospital World.

A TORONTO CHARITY.

When we stepped out of the train on to the platform at Toronto, and peeped around for the little red recognition bows, marked "Canada," we had not long to wait for three hearty hand grips. There was Miss Snively, of the General Hospital, an old friend, and with her Miss Brent, of the Children's Hospital, and also the sick children's friend, Mr. John Ross Robertson, M.P., Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Toronto Children's Hospital, and its beautiful annexe, the Lakeside Home for Little Children, situated on the sandy shore of Toronto Island, in Lake Ontario, both of which owe their existence to the same kind heart and generous hand. We have not space to-day to refer to the happy days spent at Toronto, as we feel sure our readers would rather hear what Mr. Robertson has to say to the nurses of his pet hospital, on the occasion of the graduating exercises.

A delightful occasion, indeed! After the usual two years' course of study, and having passed, with high honours, all the examinations, eight nurses received certificates and medals:—Misses Mary Elwell, Isabel Foote, Margaret Thompson, Sadie Howard, Mary Fraser, Miriam Sears, Edna Byers, and Emma Hammell. The class numbered twelve, but of these four had been called away on professional duty:—Misses Jean Burns-Gibson, Flora Collins, Edna Price, and Edith Merrill. The diploma presentations were made by Mr. J. Ross Robertson, Chairman of the Trust Board, who also presented Miss Fraser with a nurse's case for distinguished merit. The Rev. Canon Welch, Dr. Geo. A. Bingham, and Mr. Irving Cameron, gave addresses, the latter presenting the medals. A large audience was present.

THE CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

"If there be a pleasant hour in the life of the presiding officer of a great charity it surely should be on an occasion of this kind, when he is asked to preside at a meeting which honours those who in preparing for life's work have for two years past watched and nursed the sick boys and girls who in bed and cot lie for many weary weeks in this great house of God's mercy.

"Gold that brings health can never be ill spent and so the money that goes out in preparing those who make nursing their life work, so that the ails and troubles of the sick bed may be lessened if not banished, surely gives good return for all we have tried to do.

"Some one has said that nursing is one of the fine arts. To my mind it is the finest of the fine arts. All true work is sacred, but if ever work was stamped with the image and superscription of the Almighty Founder and World Builder Himself, it is this work of caring for sick ones, young and old—the work of nursing.

"Whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)