

closes in the little bay of gleaming yellow sand. The cliffs loom black in the stormy light, and the sun sinks down in a pink and green and golden haze away in the west beyond the far horizon line. It will blow to-morrow, the fisher-folk tell us, and we are lucky to have had our day off to-day while the remnant of fair weather still holds its ground, yielding inch by inch before the gathering storm.

Sometimes the weather is too inclement to get outside the hospitable walls of the nurses' home, so we amuse ourselves and our friends with efforts at portraiture. A portrait negative is rather a different variety of article to the out-of-door specimen; it should be soft, not blocked in the high lights, yet giving good gradation. Full exposure, backed, fine-grained plates, careful development, and good lighting conduce to successful portraiture. The hand-camera should be placed on a table or mantelpiece, and a time exposure (1 to 6 seconds according to light or stop; often more will be required) given. The light should not be behind the sitter, nor should it be directly in front. It should come from the side, and reflectors on the shadow side of the figure (sheets, paper, or a looking-glass) will be found of great value in softening off hard, deep shadows. The camera, too, should not be too close to the sitter, or the perspective will be more curious than flattering.

Hospital walls, being usually plain distemper, make very nice backgrounds. Anything of a spotty pattern or distracting description should be avoided in portraiture. One does not want a catalogue of furniture, but a record of a friend's face. The simpler a portrait is, as a rule, the more pleasing will it be.

Stand development is a useful method for nurses who have not much time to spare. It consists in developing six plates or so at once in a covered, grooved tank, with a lid which excludes both light and air, causing very slow oxidation of the developer, which should be diluted with water to about two-thirds its usual strength. I find the ordinary pyro-soda (with the addition of sodium sulphite to prevent staining of hands and films) developer gives as good negatives as can be got with this method. Burroughs and Wellcome's tabloids are a very convenient form of this or any other developer; they keep, and they are clean in use and easily stored. They should be crushed before being made into solution.

A good way of drying plates or films is to have a board (a big drawing or pastry board, or the lid of a packing-case) and some drawing pins. Films may have the pins inserted at each corner, and the plates can be secured with two, one at the top, one at the bottom, or four, at the angles of the corners. The board should be stood up on a newspaper (to catch drip)—in the fireplace of one's bedroom is as safe a spot as any. It should never be laid down, or the plates will dry unevenly, causing "drying stains."

Printing would take too long to enter into here. Gravura, Dekko and such papers are artistic, and give most pleasing results when gaslight printing is necessary, but platinotype (black and brown) is the beautiful for artistic work. It is quick and easy to work, is unaffected by weather, it is permanent, but the negatives must be first-class. Perhaps some other time the Editor will let us have a few notes on printing processes.

We hope in the New Year to give details of a photographic competition which we think will be of interest to our readers.

Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses.

SCOTTISH BRANCH.

Ever since Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, became President of the Scottish Branch of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses she has taken a very warm interest in its affairs, and last week Her Royal Highness attended at the District Training Home, 29, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh, where, as in former years, she presented badges, brassards, and certificates to a number of Queen's Nurses. The ceremony took place at noon in the Council-room of the Home. Her Royal Highness, who was accompanied by the Duke of Argyll, was received at the entrance to the Home by Dr. Joseph Bell and Dr. A. H. F. Barbour, members of Council, and by the hon. secretary, Miss Guthrie Wright, and other members of the Council. Her Royal Highness, who was most artistically dressed—she wore a handsome sable cloak and a reseda green gown trimmed with white embroidery, and a grey velvet toque with white roses—was conducted by Miss Guthrie Wright to the table on which lay the badges, brassards, and certificates. The badges and brassards are awarded on the occasion of the nurses placing their names on the roll of the Institute, and the certificates fall to those who have served two years as Queen's Nurses. The nurses who obtained badges were enrolled in July last, but preferred to wait until Princess Louise visited Edinburgh, in order that they might receive the insignia of office at the hands of Her Royal Highness.

The following is a list of those who obtained badges:—Nurse Jean Cameron and Nurse Sydney Sinclair, Alexandria; Nurse Margaret Blyth, Maybole; Nurse Annie Chalkley, Kinneil; Nurse Helen Thorburn, Lesmahagow; Nurse Isabella Bryden, Greenock; Nurse Annie Brown, Gourcock; Nurse Mary Miller, Cowdenbeath; Nurse Jessie Baxter, Innerleithen; Nurse Helen Wilkie, Dumfries; Nurse Helen Smith, Perth; Nurse Charlotte McCallum, Oban; Nurse Mary Stewart, Queensferry; Nurse Isabella Robertson, Hawick; Nurse Annie Smibert, Chryston; and Nurses Nancy Wilson, Margaret Peterkin, Isabel Miller, and Jane McAllister, who were trained in Glasgow. The following received certificates:—Nurse Thomasina Purves, Bonnyrigg; Nurse Mary Campbell Smith, Liberton; Nurse Adelaide Whieldon and Nurse Eliza Barrett, Kirkcaldy; Nurse Margaret Bayley, Tolleross; Nurse Agnes Pike, Penicuik; Nurse Elizabeth McCulloch, Carnoustie; Nurse Jessie Yorke, Crieff; Nurse Marianne Maclean, Kilchrennan; Nurse Mary A. Scott, Wick; Nurse Jessie M. D. Kelly, Carluke; Nurse Euphemia W. Anderson, Port-Glasgow; Nurse Annie Fraser, Renfrew; and Nurse Helen Gordon and Nurse

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