

Queen's Nurses in Scotland.

The quarterly report of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses (Scottish Branch) was laid before the Scottish Council at their last meeting. The following are extracts from it:—There are at present 266 Queen's nurses in Scotland working under 170 affiliated associations. The Council are directly responsible for seven Queen's nurses and thirty-eight probationers, of whom eighteen are trained in various hospitals and twenty in the Scottish District Training Home. During the three months ten nurses entered the home for training in district nursing and one probationer on trial for hospital. Eight nurses completed training, and were engaged by local committees at Falkirk, Annan, Wick, Elgin, Hamilton, Campbeltown, Larkhall, and Lochwinnoch. Five new branches were formed locally and affiliated—viz, Alloa, Arisaig, Kilmaurs and Crosshouse, Bearsden, and Altyre Estate. Miss Cowper and Miss Rumsey, inspectors, made sixty-nine inspections of local branches, and reported on them to the Executive Committee, who forwarded reports to the respective local committees. Seven nurses resigned their appointments—three for marriage, one on account of health, one to join a nursing association in Canada, one for home duties, and one for a hospital appointment. During the three months 1,296 cases had been nursed in Edinburgh from 29, Castle Terrace, and of these 464 were still on the books; 26,932 visits had been paid. A legacy of £20 was intimated.

A Presentation.

Miss C. Marie Duffy was the recipient of some very handsome presents on resigning her position as Assistant Matron at the Lodge Moor Hospital, Sheffield, to take up her new duties as Matron of the Leicester Borough Hospital. She was presented by the Medical Superintendent, Medical Officers, the Matron, and Miss Robinson with a silver Queen Anne tea service, consisting of teapot, sugar bowl, cream jug and tongs, afternoon Foley china tea service and oak tray; by the nursing staff with a handsome solid silver-mounted dressing case, and by the domestic staff and porters with a silver tea-kettle and stand, also several other pretty and useful gifts, along with good wishes for her future happiness.

The Nurses' Holiday Home.

We hear the weather at Brighton has been delightful during the past week, and that the Sussex Square Gardens are beginning to look very gay from the Home of Rest windows. We are glad to hear the Home is filling up again, and that everyone seems bright and happy; visitors should make their arrangements as early as possible with the Matron in order to avoid disappointment.

The Foundations of Health.

A LECTURE AT THE INSTITUTE OF HYGIENE.

There was a large attendance on Wednesday, March 29th, at the Institute of Hygiene, Devonshire Street, to hear Dr. W. G. McDowell's lecture, entitled "The Foundations of Health—First Year of Infancy."

After stating that he did not propose to enter into all the details of infant management during the first year of life, but only to refer to those points whereon ignorance prevailed among the people, the lecturer dealt with some important matters of common belief that are at variance with fact and inimical to the health of the young infant. He referred to the craze for superfatting the milk upon which infants are fed, and quoted some records by Dr. Emmott Holt concerning cases in which, though the first results were satisfactory—the children growing plump and apparently healthy—they early developed obstinate constipation, and finally suffered from convulsions.

The dejections of these infants were examined and found to be masses of little else but pure fat, though the fat in the milk had only been increased from four to five or six per cent.

These children recovered when the fat of the milk was reduced by skimming to half the normal percentage; but in how many cases, asked the lecturer, in the present state of popular knowledge, would the very opposite method be adopted, that is "the cream further increased and the child lost in consequence."

Dr. McDowell then pointed out that the secretions of the pancreas and the liver, which in the adult are physiologically employed in dealing with fat for absorption, are not capable of fulfilling this function in early infancy; the consequence being that only a small proportion of the fat consumed is absorbed from the alimentary canal, the rest passing on—the only constituent of milk that is not used up—to give bulk to the dejections and assist the expulsion of effete material.

He also inveighed against the reference of children's ailments to dentition, which he said was the cause of many preventable deaths, and seldom justified by fact. If the mother would think first of the stomach and feeding—of fresh air—of the changes going on in the nervous system, in the bones and other parts, and of the possible ills of heredity—she would be more likely to get into touch with the real truth, and seek the guidance of the medical attendant before it was too late.

There is great folly in depending on the old delusive formula, "It is the teeth," until the condition becomes hopeless.

The lecturer finally protested against the presence of preservative in milk intended for the use of infants. To give the unhygienic dairyman the privilege of substituting boric acid for cleanliness and thoroughness in his operations is a legislative iniquity against which no sufficient outcry has yet been raised. From the *American Journal of Medical Science*, for September last, he quoted the record of a series of experiments, which went to show that from six to ten grains per diem of this preservative were sufficient to kill one cat out of six in forty-two days, and to bring on kidney disease in the other five. Yet the dairyman may give it to our young infants, and in oft-repeated doses, without our knowledge or consent.

Surely the danger of this procedure has only to be pointed out to be realised by those who have the care of young children.

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