

## Nursing in the Emerald Isle.

### COUNTESS OF DUDLEY'S DISTRICT NURSES.

The second annual report of the Countess of Dudley's scheme for the establishment of district nurses in the poorest parts of Ireland, which has just been published, contains a record of beneficent work, which well justifies its promoters in stating that they entertain "a deep sense of thankfulness for what has already been accomplished, together with a growing feeling of hope and encouragement as regards its future outlook."

There are now eleven nurses working under the scheme, at a cost of about £100 a year each. Last year 1,395 cases in all were attended, and 17,031 visits were paid. It must be remembered that most of these visits involved long journeys over rough and difficult country in all kinds of weather, and often in very primitive modes of conveyance. A number of letters are printed bearing the highest testimony to the zeal and devotion of the nurses, but perhaps the best tribute to the success of their work is to be found in the fact that the committee are overwhelmed with appeals to send more nurses to different parts of the island, that on investigation the necessity for skilled attendance of this sort is shown to be only too pressing, but that the applications must, nevertheless, remain undealt with because the necessary funds are lacking. A sufficient index to the poverty of these districts is supplied by the fact that the valuation per head of the population is sometimes only ten or eleven shillings.

The organisation for sending nurses to these remote corners of the island is in complete working order; trained nurses to proceed forthwith are available. "With their minds full of the great need, and their hearts of the desire to meet it," the committee of Lady Dudley's scheme appeal to the public for the means to enable them to do so. They ask, they state, in the names of those poor inhabitants, "the conditions of whose lives are infinitely hard, and who are themselves infinitely patient and uncomplaining."

### PROPOSED SOCIAL UNION OF NURSES.

A very representative gathering of nurses from Belfast and its neighbourhood assembled at Clondeboye on July 5th in response to an invitation from the Dowager Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava. The important subject of State Registration of Trained Nurses and the formation of a Social Union of Nurses were discussed, and great interest was shown in these questions by those present. After the meeting the guests were hospitably entertained to tea, and visited the house and beautiful grounds. The Dowager Marchioness of Dufferin and her two daughters, Lady Helen Munro-Ferguson and Lady Hermione Blackwood have given so much time and thought to the nursing question that any movement for professional co-operation amongst nurses in

Ireland is fortunate to secure their interest and help.

### BANGOR DISTRICT NURSING SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Bangor District Nursing Society was held last week in the Ward Hall, Bangor, when there was a very large attendance. The Dowager Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, who is president of the society, occupied the chair, and on the platform were: Lady Helen Munro-Ferguson, Miss Connor, Sir Wm. Whitla, the Rev. J. I. Peacock, Rev. Dr. Robertson, Rev. R. J. Morrell, Mr. Cheetwood H. Bowen, and Mr. F. J. Lepper, J.P.

Lady Dufferin, as president, read the annual report, which, she said, although it appeared, from the treasurer's point of view, to be less satisfactory than usual, was in reality the best they had ever had, because it showed such an increase in the number of those they had been able to attend. The only thing they had to regret was that it would not be possible for them to do the same next winter, as they could not attempt it without a good balance in hand. She hoped all subscribers and all non-subscribers would try to realise what a comfort and a blessing a nurse was to all those poor sick and suffering people, and that they would do their utmost to help the society in its work. Having made an appeal for assistance to the Samaritan Fund, which provided nourishing food for the sick poor, Lady Dufferin said by the death of Miss Kingan the society had this year lost one of its best and kindest friends. In memory of her Mr. Kingan had made a donation of £100 to their funds, which sum was to be invested.

Miss Connor, secretary, read the report of the Executive Committee. The number of cases nursed during the year was 296, and the total visits paid 4,486. They were glad to say that most of these patients recovered, only fourteen deaths having occurred. The district had been twice inspected during the past twelve months, and the report received from London after each inspection was—"Result of inspection very satisfactory." In the Clondeboye district Lady Hermione Blackwood has nursed fifty cases and paid 848 visits during the six and a-half months she was on duty. Most of these recovered, and only six deaths occurred.

Lady Helen Munro-Ferguson, in moving the adoption of the reports, said they were now so familiar with the work in the district that they would quite understand what the bare statement, that during the past year the nurse looked after 290 cases and paid 4,486 visits, meant. It was perhaps a pity that it was so impossible to present a report to the public except in terms of figures. There was always the danger of the public running away with the idea that the sole criterion of

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