

has always been carried on under the presidency of the Bishop, and the nursing staff have been selected from members of the Church of England.

As many as five centres were formed throughout the Diocese, the superintendence and management being entirely in the hands of Miss M. A. Luard, whose personal goodness, judgment and enthusiasm inspired and guided numbers of nurses to fulfil their calling in the highest spirit of devotion. By degrees the Branch Homes were closed, and the work became centred in Witham. Then came further changes, as owing to failing health, Miss M. A. Luard withdrew from active service, and a Committee of Management was formed. In May this year our foundress passed to her long rest, lovingly tended to the last by her own nurses, and followed to her resting place by a procession in the uniform so dear to her.

There have naturally been many changes and developments in the work since the foundation of the institution. The training of probationers for the private staff has been increased from one to three years, and the standard of efficiency now aimed at is equal to that of any modern institution.

The Nurses' Home's itself has also cried "Excelsior," and from its beginning in two small cottages, not even next door to each other, a move was made to a larger house, standing in its own ground, but, unfortunately, in a low-lying street and noisy surroundings. Now at length the Committee have taken what is called by some "the best house in Witham," and we trust that it may prove a home of rest and recreation to many a tired nurse. I must say before closing that it has always been our aim to supply nurses to the poor, and to that more isolated class, the small tradesman, as well as to the better classes, and for this reason our work is of a charitable nature, and the fees are charged according to circumstances. The full number of our private staff is twenty-five, and we have lately attached two well-trained cottage nurses, who live outside the Home and are sent out to nurse in cottages in the diocese as directed by the Matron.

Candidates are also selected as Probationers and sent by the Matron for three years' training in general hospitals, after which they work on the private staff.

And now our history has reached "to-day," and we trust that though "the old order changeth, yielding place to new," it may be found that "God fulfils Himself in many ways."

Central Midwives' Board.

At the examination of the Central Midwives' Board, held in London and the provinces in October, 463 candidates were examined, and 352 passed. The proportion of failures was 24 per cent.

Nursing Echoes.

* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



We beg to thank Mrs. Gower, of Brighton, for her most generous donation of £3 3s. to the funds of the Society for State Registration of Nurses "to be spent in prosecuting its most valuable *political work* in furthering what many trained nurses consider of vital importance to the well-being of their profession and to the community at large."

Ladies' Linen Guilds are becoming very popular, and, last week, a pretty ceremony took place at the Royal Boscombe and West Hants Hospital to witness the formal presentation to the institution of several useful articles contributed by the members of the Guild, of which Mrs. Fred Gardner is the Honorary Secretary, the estimated value of which gifts amounted to £40.

The first of these Linen Guilds was originated, we believe, by Mrs. Handley, of Bath, the wife of the late President of the Royal United Hospital, through which organisation the hospital has of late years benefited by the gift of thousands of pieces of linen, blankets, and bedding.

We quote the following from the *United Service Gazette* :—

"That love of sensationalism which is such a feature with irresponsible journals, has given rise to the report that the Queen was greatly distressed because of the inadequate accommodation provided at the Home for Army Nurses at Millbank, and that the War Office had refused the offer of £2,000 made privately by Her Majesty, in order that the accommodation might be improved. We have authority for saying that this is a very exaggerated statement of the case—that the building is in every respect adequate for the purpose for which it is intended, and that Her Majesty is really satisfied with the building. The plans were approved by eminent medical authorities, amongst whom were Sir Frederick Treves, Bart., and Sir Edwin Cooper Perry, the present chairman of the Army Hospitals Committee. The plans having been passed by the proper departments, it only remained for the War Office to see that the work was put in hand. It is stated that the nurses' bedrooms in the new home, as well as all the other arrangements, are conceived upon a larger and more liberal scale than is to be found in the majority of the London hospitals."

Imagine calling the *British Medical Journal* an "irresponsible journal," with a love of "sensationalism" that makes the most serious to smile.

In this connection, speaking to one who should

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