

Scottish Nursing Notes.

QUEEN'S NURSES.

The Home of the Scottish Branch of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute is very delightfully housed in Castle Terrace, facing the magnificent Rock, and here Miss Cowper and her assistants are engaged in most interesting work.

To a certain extent the Scottish Branch has worked on somewhat independent lines, and has demonstrated the wisdom of two things, firstly, that a Central Home makes for discipline and *esprit de corps*, as each Queen's Nurse, after a thorough three years' general training, has to spend six months in the Home, learning from skilled teachers the special work of district nursing, an altogether admirable system; and secondly, that cottage nurses, through county associations, cannot be affiliated to, or inspected by, Queen's Superintendents, without tending to depreciate district nursing as a whole. Neither Miss Wade nor Miss Cowper feel justified in supporting a system which provides under the title of "nurse" an attendant for the sick poor, who is not a "trained nurse," and we are in entire sympathy with their point of view.

Women trained in districts only, or in cottage hospitals, for three or six months, who may or may not be midwives, are not trained nurses, and they should not be permitted to pose as such. It places them and their patients in an entirely false position, and if useful midwifery or domestic work is being done by such workers in rural districts they should be called "midwives" if they are so qualified, or "cottage helps," not "cottage nurses." We learn, however, from experienced persons that if the title "help" and not "nurse" were adopted by County Nursing Associations, no applicants for "training" would be forthcoming.

What trained nurses want to know is what is to become of these cottage nurses at the end of their term of contract. Many, of course, having been awarded a certificate from the Association to which they are attached, go into private nursing, and swell the stream of inefficients. So in Scotland the Queen's Jubilee Institute has so far resisted the demand for affiliation by Cottage Nursing Associations, and we hope it will continue to do so, as it has proved that semi-trained women are not necessary in district nursing, and that Queen's Nurses can and do perform most admirably their duties in the

wildest rural districts, and are content to work for years in these solitary places.

The death of Miss Guthrie Wright was an almost irreparable loss to nursing in Scotland. As Hon. Secretary to the Scottish Branch, Q.V.J.I. for so many years, she devoted her great business abilities to furthering its work and interests in every way. Indeed, she *loved* it, and spent health and wealth in its welfare, and when she died the beautiful country home she had designed and built for herself at Colinton, became the property of the Institute. Now, by the happiest arrangement, this lovely place is to belong to the Queen's Nurses in perpetuity, as the Guthrie Wright Memorial for Queen's Nurses.

Quite recently we had the pleasure, accompanied by Miss Cowper, of paying a visit to Colinton Cottage. A few minutes in the train covers the four miles' distance from Edinburgh, and a five minutes' walk from the station brought us to the garden gate. The Cottage is charming with its buff flower-covered walls, deep sloping red roofs, and lattice windows, surrounded by a lovely garden, with lawns, shady terraced walks, and a well-stocked kitchen patch. Opposite the drawing-room windows, in mid-August, a briar hedge was all abloom, with the sweetest pink and white roses, and over it beyond the exquisite valley the Pentland Hills loomed softly purple. A charming home! all exquisitely furnished with many bits of fine old furniture, racks of blue china, dainty chintzes, the touch of a dear, dead hand on it all.

It has been made possible for Queen's Nurses in Scotland to possess this Home, partly by the generosity of the Council, and partly by their own common sense. Each nurse may, by subscribing £1 a year, be eligible for free admission when ill, and on moderate terms for a holiday. In time no doubt every nurse will subscribe, as nothing could be more refreshing than such surroundings as it provides. Miss Stoddart, the Sister in Charge, appears to possess just the bright personality to make the scheme a thorough success.

As we wandered in the kitchen garden, and ate great red ripe gooseberries warm off the bush we all came to the conclusion that some day, when we are invited by our Scottish colleagues to hold a Nursing Conference in picturesque Edinburgh, it would be quite delightful to attend a Garden Fête at Colinton. We intend to look forward to that happy day.

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