

## District Nursing in Wales.

A meeting of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses was held on Wednesday, the 20th inst., at the offices of the Institute, 120, Victoria Street, London, to discuss the future organisation of district nursing in Wales. The meeting was convened by the Countess of Plymouth, Lady Victoria Lambton, Viscount Tredegar, Lord Mostyn, Mr. Lloyd George, and Mr. J. E. Greaves (Lord-Lieutenant of Carnarvonshire). Amongst those present were the Marchioness of Bute, Lady Stanley of Alderley, Lady Llangattock, Lady Dillwyn Llewelyn, Lady Osborne Morgan, Mrs. Holland, Mrs. Ivor Philipps and Mrs. Wynford Philipps, Lady Mary Howard, the Hon. Mrs. C. A. Egerton, Miss R. Paget, Sir R. H. Williams Bulkeley, Mr. D. F. Pennant, Mr. D. W. Jones (Mayor of Merthyr), and representatives of the Nursing Association in Wales, as follows—Miss Purton (Aberystwyth), Mrs. Price (Bala), Mrs. Pritchard (Bethesda), Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Thompson (Cardiff), Miss Morgan (Cardiff), Mrs. Picton Evans (Cardigan), Mrs. Williams (Carmarthen), Miss Jones (Carmarthen), Mr. J. Lloyd John (Corwen), Miss Pughe Jones (Criccieth), Miss Benson (Gower), Miss Adrane (Holyhead), Mrs. Towers Smith (Laugharne), Miss M. Hughes (Llandinam), Mrs. Williams (Merthyr), Mrs. D. W. Jones (Merthyr), Miss Jones (Merthyr), Mrs. Breese (Portmadoc), Mrs. Nicolls (Rhayader), Mrs. Swetenham (Ruthin), Mrs. L. E. Jones (Towyn), and Mrs. T. Jones (Towyn).

Mr. Harold Boulton (vice-chairman of the Institute), who presided, stated that, owing to the growth of the work of district nursing in Wales, and the requirements of the Midwives Act, the meeting had been convened to consider the best method of providing an increased supply of both Queen's nurses and village nurses in the Principality.

After discussion the following resolution was agreed to:—

"As the Queen's Institute is not able to keep pace with the demand for Queen's Nurses, and as the training of village nurses is also desirable in Wales, the Principality be divided into two or more administrative areas for carrying out those objects.

At the present time there are 93 associations in Wales affiliated to Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, employing 127 fully qualified Queen's Nurses. Unfortunately, there are many districts in Wales that cannot bear the cost of a fully-qualified Queen's Nurse, and where there is a great need for skilled attention in sickness and midwifery cases."

The meeting was unanimous in recognising the need for village nurses in such areas, and it was ultimately decided that provisional committees for North and South Wales should be nominated by the Institute in consultation with the Lords-Lieutenants of the various Welsh counties to prepare and submit a scheme, or schemes, for the carrying out of the above resolution.

We do hope some trained Matrons will be nominated to seats on these provisional committees. Lay control of district nursing should surely in these days be leavened with professional knowledge. One notes with regret the past high ideals of district nursing being superseded by insufficient standards of training and experience for cottage nurses, which, twenty years ago, would not have been tolerated for a moment. The demand is for "skilled" nursing. Skilled nursing cannot be acquired from books and black-boards, even with a few months midwifery thrown in. It is time to call halt in depreciating district nursing standards.

## A Presentation.

A very interesting ceremony took place on Tuesday, 19th May, 1908, in the presence of a large number of friends and well-wishers of Miss Oldacre, at the Nurses' Home, Aston Infirmary, on the occasion of a presentation made by the nursing staff in view of her resignation of the post of Superintendent-Nurse.

Councillor A. H. James, Chairman of the Aston Board of Guardians, in making the presentation, thanked the nurses for the compliment they had paid him in asking him to perform such a pleasant duty.

He expressed his sorrow and regret at Miss Oldacre's resignation, which was due to failing health. Speaking as a Guardian, Mr. James referred to the high opinion Miss Oldacre had won by her unselfish devotion to duty in spite of delicate health, of the wide influence she exerted in the nursing world, and the esteem she was held in, both by present and past nurses of the institution, evidenced not only by this large gathering, but by the fact that all the nurses who had been trained by Miss Oldacre were holding good positions in the nursing world at the present time.

The patients also, many of whom had been cared for and looked after by Miss Oldacre for many years, felt that they could not allow her to leave without expressing their love in a tangible form and their appreciation of her many kindnesses to them, and this they did by subscribing towards a beautiful satchel for her.

In asking Miss Oldacre's acceptance of a lovely basket of flowers containing an exceedingly handsome pearl and amethyst combined brooch and pendant, on behalf of the nursing and domestic staffs, and of the satchel on behalf of the patients, Councillor James again referred to the splendid work Miss Oldacre had done at Aston Infirmary, and hoped she would make a speedy return to good health, and have many years of good work in front of her.

Miss Oldacre expressed her thanks to Mr. James and her friends, and said how much she owed to the nursing staff for their loyal support and hearty co-operation in carrying out the work of the institution.

The ceremony ended with many expressions of sympathy and goodwill, and regrets at Miss Oldacre's resignation were heard on all sides.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)