

Our Scotch Letter.

THE SCOTTISH BRANCH OF QUEEN VICTORIA'S
JUBILEE INSTITUTE FOR NURSES.

THE annual report of the Scottish Branch of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses has just been published. It was first started in Edinburgh, as is, doubtless, well known, in April, 1889, with a Superintendent and two Nurses. In November, 1893, the work has increased so much that, in Edinburgh, there is a staff of 15 Nurses, one Superintendent and two Assistant-Superintendents, while in different parts of Scotland there are 47 branches. The farthest north of these is Wick, where a Nurse began work in August, and where there has been an epidemic of typhoid fever, which has kept her very busy, and has shown the people at once the value of the help she can give them. They seem to appreciate it greatly, and would not now be willing to part with their Nurse, or miss her visits. There is likely to be a good deal of work there in the summer, on account of the fish-curing industry, which brings many workers from a distance, amongst whom there is often much sickness.

The Nurses in Highland districts have sometimes strange experiences. It is not always possible to do district nursing there in the ordinary sense of the term, as it is done in other places, on account of the distances the patients often live from each other, and the difficulties of transit. The Nurse may have to remain some days with her patient if the case is a serious one. In one instance, no one, not even her nearest relatives, would go near the patient, or help the Nurse in any way, and she had to do everything for the poor woman herself for days, unhappily, without the satisfaction of saving her patient in the end, it being a case where previous neglect and ignorance had done mischief, which no after care and nursing could overcome. The doctor had been in despair, quite unable to have his directions carried out, so had gone for the Nurse, and taken her miles up the hills to the patient's house, where she remained till the end.

There are 39 Nurses working at single posts throughout Scotland; these are visited twice yearly by the Superintendents of the Training Home, and send monthly reports of their work. In some of the large towns the demand for the Nurses' services is great. In Dundee there are seven Nurses and a Superintendent. With the help of a special donation, the Committee has lately been able to open a larger Home, in a good situation, very comfortable in its arrangements, and with further accommodation, if necessary, for increase of staff. In Aberdeen there are now two Nurses and a Superintendent, and a third is to be added immediately. In Paisley there are five Nurses and a Superintendent. There the powers of the Nurses have been much taxed this autumn by the typhoid epidemic, which has been very severe in many places in the West, and of which Paisley has had its full share. There has also been much typhoid fever at Kilmarnock, where there are two Nurses and a Superintendent at work. They rejoice that, of over 60 cases nursed, there has only been one death. At Berwick, where the work is most interesting, and very warmly supported by the doctors, the two Nurses are kept very busy. At Johnstone

there are also two Nurses. At Glasgow the District Nursing Association, started some years ago by Mrs. Higginbotham, has affiliated with the Q.V.J.I.N.

The number of cases nursed in Edinburgh and Leith, from December 1st, 1892, to November 30th, 1893, was 2,298, to whom 15,705 visits were paid by Nurses, exclusive of those paid by Superintendents; 12 new branches were started during the year; 26 Nurses received appointments, 12 to new branches, 10 to fill vacancies, and four for increase of staff in Homes. Thus, it will be seen that the work is steadily on the increase, both in places where Nurses have been working some time, and in new districts.

National Health Society,

President:—HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF WESTMINSTER, K.G.

THE General Hon. Secretary of the Barnet University Extension and Technical Instruction Society writes as follows:—"I have great pleasure in stating that the course of Nursing lectures just completed by Miss Dunbar has been an unqualified success, the average attendance being 119 (one night 156), and it would have been more but for the prevailing sickness. Most of the class we usually find so difficult to get to attend, and we consider this a large number for so small a place as Barnet. This, I have no hesitation in saying, was greatly due to Miss Dunbar's admirable instruction adapted to the audience, aided by a zealous committee of ladies. I must thank you for fulfilling your promise as regards the Instructress, and I hope to apply to you later on."

From Colchester the Hon. Sec. of the County Council scheme for Technical Education says, in reference to a class of Cookery lessons:—"Miss Orpen's lectures were very satisfactory, and as we intend to have another course on Cookery in February, we should be glad to have Miss Orpen again as the teacher, if she be at liberty then. Failing her, will you send us an equally competent lady?"

From St. Ives, where Miss Henrietta Kenealy has been lecturing on Ambulance and Sick Nursing, we have the following notice:—"In the St. Ives District, Miss Kenealy lectured in nearly every village, and the Committee have made arrangements for a more extended series of lectures by the same lady, so satisfied were they with the great interest shown on the first occasion."

The National Health Society's Offices will only be closed for a few days at Christmas, but we advise all intending students at the forthcoming Training Courses to make application before that date. None are advised to enter for training unless they are considered, by those in authority, to be fitted for the work. This proviso is an important one, and has the three-fold advantage of preventing disappointment to the student and the lecturer, and protecting the public against would-be teachers who have not the teaching faculty, and inspectors who have neither the health nor sound judgment necessary for their arduous and difficult tasks.

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