

appreciated. Additional rooms had been added to the institution to meet the demand for accommodation. There were on the staff seventy Nurses and ten probationers. The Report went on to speak in terms of eulogium of the able administration of the Matron (Mrs. Emery), who took charge of the institution at the close of 1888, when there were only twenty-seven Nurses on the staff. The Report concluded by returning thanks to Professor Philipson, Dr. Page, and Dr. Black for their kind medical attendance to the Nurses.

FROM the Nurses' Home at Middlesbrough also comes a most satisfactory report of the past year's work:—

"During the twelve months the district Nurses had had 555 cases and paid 17,466 visits. Of these cases 385 recovered, 113 died, 18 were transferred to hospital, 3 were removed from the books, and 37 were still under the Nurses' care. These figures testified not only to a large increase of work, but to the untiring energy and devotion on the part of the district Nurses to whom the committee felt their subscribers and the general public owed hearty and sincere thanks. The increase in the number of cases showed that as the fact of the Nurses going amongst the sick poor was more widely known their aid was increasingly sought, and the committee only wished that the means to carry on the work flowed to them in the same proportion. The committee would like to point out how far-reaching were the benefits of skilled nursing for the sick poor. It shortened illness, enforced attention to the doctor's orders, enabled the bread-winner of a family to return sooner to his work and keep a home together which might otherwise be broken up, often saved the mother from life-long suffering through ignorance or neglect; taught the proper management of the young children, and thus conferred benefits on the whole community instead of only on the immediate recipients. Surely such a work deserved support from all according to their means. That the poor themselves appreciated the care and kindness they received was proved almost daily by letters, by little gifts, the work of the patients themselves, and often by donations of money which represented not only fortitude but self-denial."

"The generous gift of £100 from Mr. A. J. Dorman encouraged the committee to acquire the house adjoining that already occupied in Gunnergate Terrace. This gave increased accommodation, and considerably added to the comfort of their staff. This addition to the Home was formally opened by Mrs. Dorman on the 10th October."

"The staff during the year consisted of a Lady Superintendent, four district and three private Nurses. This staff had been increased, and at present consisted of four district Nurses, two probationer Nurses, and six private Nurses. The private Nurses had been kept busily employed during the year, and had given every satisfaction. The committee regretted to announce the resignation of their senior district Nurse, Miss MacCormack, who had been with them since

the opening of the Home, and done most excellent work. Miss MacCormack had been appointed Matron of the new Floating Hospital on the Tees, and the committee were glad to record their appreciation of her faithful and devoted service. The committee joined the Lady Superintendent and her staff in thanking Dr. Hedley for his gratuitous professional services to the Home, and desired to take this opportunity of gratefully acknowledging the excellent work done by Miss Purvis and the district Nurses. They also wished to impress upon the public that there was no charge made for the services of the district Nurses, which were entirely gratuitous, and that the Association received no weekly or monthly subscriptions from the working men.

IN some scattered villages in the Eastern Counties a great dispute has been going on as to whether "a bicycle built for one" is a suitable mode of conveyance for the District Nurse. Arguments are brought forward with much warmth: the supporters of the scheme contending that the sentiment of the thing must give way to utility, and that it is a double hardship to Nurse and patients alike, that so convenient a form of travel should be denied a woman just because she has donned the bonnet and cloak of a Hospital Nurse.

In districts where two or more villages club together for a Nurse, the distances from patient to patient are so great, that the Nurse's energies are well spent before she has accomplished half her round. And it is this factor of fatiguing exercise in all weathers which makes District Nursing practically an impossibility to all but the very strongest women. In the advertisements for district workers, it is often noticeable that greater stress is laid on the necessity of the candidate possessing good "staying" powers of pedestrianism rather than a high professional qualification. And this must necessarily be so as long as the Nurse has to entirely depend for locomotion on the untiring energies of her muscles. Of course it frequently happens that some good Samaritans, farmers, squires, and bakers' boys will "give Nurse a lift if we happen to be going her way," but these lifts are uncertain quantities, and hardly count in the sum of the week's work.

Now it is generally conceded that the fatigue of working a bicycle is nil as compared with the same amount of walking, and it is just as ridiculous for the opponents of this harmless scheme for lightening the too arduous labours of our District Nurses, to bring forward the idea that "the patients would have no respect for a Nurse whom they saw daily on a bicycle," as it would be to contend that their respect for the Church is diminished by the fact that their

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