

with all the inferior parts of the much-including task freely chosen by her. Never losing herself in abstract speculations and vain meditations, but always doing what she thought right and necessary, she gave ear to the call of a near relative, attacked by a cruel illness, and who wanted careful and judicious nursing. On the 17th of May, 1883, she began her work as Lady-Superintendent of the Binten-Gasthuis, duly prepared for her task, and thoroughly acquainted with all the exigencies to which an establishment, where sick ones are to be nursed, must answer, for she had travelled much abroad and visited the hospitals in the principal capitals of Europe. Alas! the Binten-Gasthuis, an old building, with a dark gloomy aspect, was not the faintest shadow of what an Institution of that kind ought to be. But we will not disgrace nor mock the dead. The Binten-Gasthuis now stands deserted, and has been substituted by the pretty Wilhelmina Hospital, of which our city may be rightfully proud. But unsuspected and uncomfortable as the Binten-Gasthuis was, Miss Reijnvaan, with the valuable help of Mr. and Mrs. van Deventer, has made the best of it, and done almost the impossible, to transform it into a friendly abode as well for the Nurses as for the patients. By her example and encouraging words she cultivated mutual friendship and confidence between the Nurses. It was she who organised the pretty feasts of Santa Claus and Christmas that have left an imperishable impression on the minds of the assistants, and actually contributed to remove the prejudices felt by the lower people of Amsterdam towards the "gasthuizen" (the municipal hospitals), and dating from the days when rude and uncivilised man and maid-servants were rendering these their services as Nurses. Inspired by the desire of furthering the cause of Sick Nursing, and bringing more uniformity in the examinations, and the exigencies for the training of future Nurses, she took the initiative, in union with Yonkorourde de Bosch Kemper, for the establishing of the Dutch Association for the Treatment of the Sick. It is also she who has called into being the "Maandblad voor Ziekenverpleging," our monthly Nursing Magazine.

We glory in the fact that Miss Reijnvaan, at the occasion of her jubilee, has received from different sides the most unmistakable proofs of sympathy and acknowledgment of her great merits. Her rooms were transformed into a flower-garden, and numerous are the tangible marks of esteem that have flown towards her. Her Majesty the Queen-Regent has paid her homage, as well as the Town Council of Amsterdam. But the most beautiful form of respect and gratitude is surely the foundation of the Johanna Pauline Reijnvaan Fund in behalf of those Nurses who, by the burden of age, or by illness, are not able to proceed with their work. This delicate and lasting homage is worthy the noble woman in whose honour it is created.

The honour also of Honorary Membership has been conferred on Miss Reijnvaan by the British Matrons' Council in recognition of the high standing which she occupies in the Nursing world at large. May it be granted her to pursue for long, long years the task to which she has devoted herself, assisted by the zealous help of Dr. Kniper, the successor of Dr. van Deventer—who has been called to occupy a higher position, that of Medical Superintendent of "Mecrenberg," the principal lunatic asylum in our country. Her greatest reward may be the conviction that she has left "footprints on the sand of time." HOLLANDIA.

Amsterdam, December, 1895.

Matrons in Council.

NURSING EDUCATION.



THE correspondence on Miss Isla Stewart's Paper on "A Uniform Curriculum of Education for Nurses," has touched on several very important points. A letter signed "Superintendent" which appeared on December 7th, and which emanated from one of our most experienced Matrons, considers that there is stern necessity for reform in the system of education of our Nurses, and we are quite in sympathy with her; and her advice to her colleagues to cling tenaciously to the necessity, when choosing women for Nursing work, to take those possessed first of all with the *true Nursing spirit*, is no doubt the secret of ultimate success. Education, practical and theoretical, can do much, but the type of woman is the cardinal consideration.

Mrs. Okell—most earnest of Superintendents, taking as she does an active, personal, individual interest in each of her pupils—is in favour of a uniform curriculum of education for Nurses, and asks for information concerning the possibility of providing preliminary education for women entering for training at scattered country Hospitals. We quite agree with Mrs. Okell that no further financial burden should be added to the Hospital expenses in connection with the training of Nurses—it is impossible that they can afford it—but it appears to us that when a sensible practical scheme for the necessary preliminary education has been defined by a professional body, that Institutions in large local centres will arise to meet the needs of the pupils. These could easily be arranged in connection with County Technical Schools, and the pupils, before arriving at the age which it is desirable for them to attain before entering the Hospital wards, could be recommended to pass through the definite theoretical course at these local schools. Here we foresee a new opening for women, where thoroughly trained Nurses, with the additional talent for instruction, could find scope for their talents. We are on the eve of great reforms in Nursing, because the Nurses themselves are demanding these reforms, and when the *worker* awakens to his necessities, the employer of labour must find his relief.

"A Special Hospital Matron" deploras the disorganised condition of the Nursing labour

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)