

best methods of organisation to be wide and thorough. This testimony to the worth of women's work, coming from so high an authority, is therefore valuable and gratifying.

THE Liverpool Royal Infirmary and the Training School for Nurses in the same city have lost an old and staunch friend in Mr. Edward Gibbon. This gentleman was one of the earliest of hospital reformers. In 1851 he was appointed as Chairman to the Royal Infirmary, being the successor of his father, who had held the same office for 42 years, and he only retired from the post in 1879. An idea of the difficulties with which the pioneers of nursing reform had to contend may be formed, and the advances made to some extent gauged, when it is known that Mr. Gibbon stated that "though they were willing to pay competent nurses much higher wages than the scale usually current, they had only been able to obtain the services of three women worthy of such increased pay; and to the ordinary hospital nurse then obtainable, increased wages would only be increased temptation to intemperance. The high state of efficiency which at present prevails at the Liverpool Royal Infirmary must have been a keen delight to one who had steered it successfully through the difficulties which prevailed in its earlier days.

THE nurses of the Bradford Infirmary are to be provided with a new Home at a cost of £10,000.

THE Chairman of the Huddersfield Committee for providing nurses for the sick poor in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee has written to the local press to meet an objection which has been raised that "the nurses to be provided would be such as would want waiting on, and would not be suitable for the class of patients for whom they are intended." Mr. Freeman writes as follows:—

"With regard to the nurses themselves, there need be no fear that they will be above their work. It is not intended that they shall live, or even take meals in the patients' houses, or want anyone to run after them. It is essential that they shall be as highly-trained as circumstances permit, and their ordinary duties will be such as dressing wounds, washing and nursing patients, making their beds, and otherwise making them comfortable in a way that no one without special training can do so well."

We are glad that the nursing is being organised on such a wise basis.

A HOME for private nurses has recently been opened in connection with the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. There is accommodation for twenty-five nurses.

MISS JANE K. MILLER, the Hon. Secretary of the Victoria Nurses' Institute, Cape Town, states in a letter to the *Cape Times* that although the Diamond Jubilee Committee have decided against the claims of the Institute, the Ladies Committee have not abandoned their project, and that it is proposed to call a meeting of the women of Cape Town, and the suburbs, to enlist their sympathies and co-operation in this much-needed work. If the women of Cape Town are unanimous in this desire to possess a Nurses' Institute we do not doubt that they will carry through their scheme. Meanwhile it is proposed to hire premises, and to collect sufficient funds for furniture and preliminary expenses. It is anticipated that at the end of three years the Institute will be self-supporting.

IN connection with the Canadian Victorian Order of Nurses it is proposed that a meeting of all the Vice-Patrons, Vice-Presidents, and representatives of subscribers, shall be convened at Ottawa when the fund is about to be closed, in order that a committee may be elected by them, and the fund received handed over to this body. At least half a million of dollars is needed to place the fund on a sound basis.

"ANOTHER cry from hospital nurses in South Africa," says *The African Critic*. "In his report for 1896 on the New Somerset institution, the Resident Surgeon sets forth the grievances of the nursing staff—too much work and too little wages. They get no Saturday half-holidays and no Sunday off duty. Their annual leave is only twelve days during the first two years of service. They may have extra leave if ill-health demands it, but without pay. The salary is £30 per annum, with board, lodging, and uniform. The food allowance is none too liberal, and the sleeping space is only one small room for each couple of nurses. Often a nurse has to assist her widowed mother and younger brothers and sisters, and she cannot afford to take leave without pay. The doctor asks for discretionary powers in such cases, and also for authority to improve the diet scale in the matter of stimulants. Although the latter is a matter which requires delicate handling, the former should be at once dealt with on the lines advised. As one reads these details of Colonial philanthropic sweating, he can almost imagine the educated and trained nurse of to-day sighing for the freedom and high living of the days of rare old Sairey Gamp and Betsy Prigg. I said months ago, and now repeat, that English nurses should make careful enquiries before going to the Colonies."

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