

## The Victorian Era Exhibition.

THE conception of this Exhibition, which was opened at Earl's Court on Monday last, was one which was worthy of the Record Reign in English History, but we fear it will be generally felt that the original idea has not been adequately realised. In the case of the Woman's Work Section, the reason perhaps is not far to seek, for upon consulting the Catalogue it will be found that the Sub-Committee entrusted with the organisation of this section does not include the name, with the exception of that of Henrietta Ray (Mrs. E. Normand), of any expert. The Committee is formed of ladies well known, and for the most part respected, in society, whose patronage is doubtless valuable to a commercially designed exhibition. But the actual organisation of a movement which was proposed to be, in any sense, national and complete, would have been more wisely entrusted to women who had distinguished themselves in their several callings, and who had proved their capacity for such organisation, as well as their practical knowledge.

The Nursing Section was the one in which we were naturally most interested, and we had hoped to find grouped together in that section all nursing exhibits. But, somewhat to our surprise, we found the Historical Division of the Woman's Work Section exhibits more or less slightly connected with nursing—the chair, scissors and pincushion worn by Sister Dora, and also a relic which appeared to us somewhat more theatrical than "historical"—"part of the veil of her uniform bonnet, which Sister Dora was wearing at the time of her death." Now, we would ask as a matter of historical interest, whether it is a well authenticated fact that Sister Dora elected to die in her bonnet and veil. If so, what has become of the rest of the said bonnet and veil? That she was unconventional we know, but the arrangement appears to us an eminently uncomfortable one, and one which we should have imagined would not commend itself to the practical common-sense of Sister Dora. Anyhow, the relic would be more suitably shown at Madame Tussauds.

Upon entering the Nursing Section, the visitor finds on the right hand the model of the room of a district patient under the care of a Queen Victoria Jubilee Nurse, and on the left hand, a stand exhibiting models of appliances used by those nurses, as well as some of the appliances themselves. Among these, may be mentioned an operation basket, sent by the Leighton Buzzard Branch, and an ingenious extempore cradle, formed by dividing a large hoop, and nailing the two pieces together crosswise at the highest point of the semi-circles.

The next exhibit of interest is a nurse on a bicycle in the usual impracticable bonnet. A bag, however, which is strapped on to the handle bar of the cycle should prove of use to district nurses. It is made by Messrs. Bailey, of Oxford Street, which is a guarantee that the practical needs of nurses have been considered in its manufacture. The exhibits in the main long hall have been arranged by the London Hospital, and consist for the most part of beds and cots containing lay figures upon which various splints, and surgical dressings are applied. The ice cradle, which is we believe a speciality of the London Hospital, is to be seen, and will be of great interest to those who are not already acquainted with it. A tracheotomy in a tent, is also on view, but are we to suppose that a

model in which the tracheotomy tube is entirely unprotected is the presentment of the nursing of a case of this kind, which we are asked to consider as ideal, or is the omission of a gauze guard accidental? The centre of the hall is occupied with the cart used by Miss Nightingale in her daily visits to the hospitals in the Crimea. One cannot help wondering how, and why it came to England, and as it is here why it is not in the "historical" section. Sairey Gamp, and the nurse of to-day, of course find their place among the exhibits, in flattering imitation of the popular exhibit at the Nursing Exhibition last year. We looked in vain for the contrivances and inventions of nurses which we had hoped to find, with the exception of the "Princess Christian" Bed Rest, patented by Nurse Todd.

It cannot be pretended that the Nursing Section, though interesting so far as it goes, is in the slightest degree comprehensive, or that any real attempt has been made to classify the different departments from a professional point of view. A good deal of space is occupied by Messrs. Down Brothers, Messrs. Debenham & Freebody, and Messrs. Allen & Hanbury, whose exhibits are, it need hardly be said, from a commercial point of view excellent.

We left the exhibition with the cordial regret that so unique an opportunity should have been so insufficiently utilised and therefore wasted, and we cannot but endorse the opinion expressed by the *Times*, "It is an interesting and amusing show rather than a serious and consistently organised exhibition but it will serve the purpose for which it is designed. It will doubtless attract, as it deserves to do, very large numbers of those who visit London this year."

## Appointments.

MISS ELIZABETH A. WILKINSON has been appointed Matron of the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary. Miss Wilkinson was trained at the Leeds General Infirmary, and afterwards held the post of Sister in that institution. She was then appointed Matron of the Women and Children's Hospital in the same town, and subsequently was appointed to the same position in the North Staffordshire Infirmary, Stoke-on-Trent, from which post she has obtained her present appointment. Miss Wilkinson therefore has had a wide and varied experience to fit her for her important position.

MISS WATSON, who has been on the staff of the City of Dublin Hospital for the past ten years, has been appointed assistant lady superintendent to the Cork Street Hospital, Dublin.

NURSE GOFF has been appointed as district nurse for North Finchley, subject to the approval of the Finchley Charity Organisation Society. Nurse Goff is a member of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, and prior to her joining it she had six years' experience in St. Thomas' Hospital.

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