

advantages do not usurp the place of the high ideal of womanhood, the devotion to the duty of caring for the suffering sick, the abnegation of self, which were powerful factors in the work of the nurse of yesterday." He also wisely draws attention to the fact that "training means more than skill, means the development of character, the loss of selfishness, the gain of self-restraint," and says that if the nurse of to-day proves that she is not forgetting these essentials, "she will then be better able to combine with her fellows, to bring about a definite recognition of her position, to force legislation to define and uphold that position. She will then see the necessity of a uniform standard of training, of a uniform knowledge proved by uniformity of examination by an independent examining council. She will see the folly of each and every hospital setting its own standard."

Many nurses, we believe, already are earnestly desirous of obtaining the reforms so wisely laid down by our contemporary as those for which they should strive, but only those who have set themselves to attain these just measures know how difficult they are to obtain.

THE Committee of the Reading Nursing Institute have been honoured with a communication from the Queen, empowering them to call their Institute the "Queen Victoria's Institute for Nursing the Sick Poor of Reading." The following is the letter:—

"Whitehall, 14th June, 1897.

SIR,—I am directed by Secretary Sir Matthew Ridley to acquaint you he has had the honour to lay before the Queen your application of the 2nd inst. for permission to call by the name Queen Victoria's Institute for Nursing the Sick Poor, an Institution which it is proposed to establish in Reading in commemoration of the 60th year of Her Majesty's reign; and I am to state that Her Majesty graciously approves of the desired permission being granted, the word 'Reading,' however, to be added to the title suggested.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

HENRY CUNYNGHAME.

To the Mayor of Reading."

THE following extracts from a letter by Miss Florence Nightingale in connection with the scheme of district nursing which has been initiated in Liverpool in connection with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, will be read with interest by nurses:—

"We look upon the district nurse, if she is what she should be, and if we give her the training she should have, as the great civiliser of the poor, training as well as nursing them out of ill-health into good health (health missionaries), out of drink into self-control; but all without preaching, without patronising, as friends in sympathy.

But let them hold the standard high as nurses.

We are trying to introduce in India native women health missionaries to bring health among the rural mothers, by showing them what to do as friends, and the Government of India furthers it."

WE learn from a contemporary that at a street collection held in Nottingham the "girls who undertook the collection" were "dressed in the picturesque costume of hospital nurses." We must protest against nurses' uniform being pressed into any service, however intrinsically laudable for the sake of providing a "picturesque costume."

THE patients at the Accident Hospital, Longton, were allowed to invite their friends to tea in the Hospital garden in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The visitors arrived about four o'clock, and, owing to the kindness of many friends of the Hospital, a bountiful meal was provided for them, consisting of tea, cakes, scones, and plum puddings. The plum puddings, thirteen in number, were made and sent by a former in-patient. The members of the visiting staff combined to make the entertainment a success. Dr. Allan provided a barrel organ, which gave great pleasure to the children, and his little daughter gave all the children medals. Dr. Jones sent oranges and strawberries, and Dr. Shee directed the games: races, Aunt Sally and soap-bubble blowing being carried on with great spirit. The helpless patients were carried out into the garden and laid on mattresses, covered with awnings, and a most enjoyable afternoon was spent by both patients and visitors.

WE stated in a recent issue that Nurse Hayes had addressed a letter to the Bradford Board of Guardians stating that she resigned her position as nurse under the Board "through unkindness, injustice, and mismanagement." We also drew attention last week to the position taken up by Mr. Duggan, that the Board, and not a sub-committee should receive the resignations of the officers appointed by it. At a recent meeting of the Infirmary Committee, at which other members of the Board, including Mr. Duggan, were present, it was stated in a memorandum that Nurse Hayes appeared before the committee, in reply to a request, with reference to her resignation of the post of nurse in the hospitals of the Workhouse, and was requested to state her reasons for the use in her letter of resignation of the words "unkindness" "injustice," and "mismanagement." She was, the memorandum stated, examined at great length thereon, but failed to give any instance which justified her in the use of such terms, she betraying that for some time she had had a

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)