

tive block, and the enlargement of the laundry are still under consideration. The committee expect to receive from the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Fund a sum sufficient to cover the cost of the nurses' new home, and they are also hopeful that funds may be forthcoming to meet the expenditure in respect of the larder and the laundry. The committee, during the year, have further recognised the valuable services of the sisters, and they again recommend that a sum of £100 be placed to the credit of the Nurses' Pension Fund. The present nursing staff (including that of Heatherdene) consists of 6 sisters, 4 charge nurses, 5 certificated nurses, 14 assistant nurses, and 14 probationers. During the year 1 nurse was promoted to the position of charge nurse; 11 nurses left for other spheres of work, having completed their three years' training, and gained their certificates; 1 left as unsuitable; and 12 probationers were accepted for training; 143 applications have been received during the year for admission for training. The examination on hygiene, held January 29th last, concluded the third course of lectures delivered to probationers. The three silver medals, presented by the committee, were won by Nurse Stuart for physiology, and Nurse Messum for anatomy and hygiene."

We are specially pleased to observe that the most important subject of hygiene, one of the corner-stones of an efficient curriculum of nursing, is included in the educational course at the Sunderland Infirmary. We hope in time to hear of hygiene and sick cookery being added to the instruction given to nurses in all the leading training schools.

THE *Daily News* says:

"The recent earthquakes in India seem to have been the occasion of many heroic actions. One of the most notable instances of that trying time was the heroism displayed by Nurse Beadon at Shillarg. At the time the earthquake happened she was nursing a patient named Macnaghten, who was suffering from abscesses of the liver. Miss Beadon had just sent the attendant out of the room when the first shock occurred. It seemed to rouse Macnaghten, who had been delirious, and when the floor began to rock he sprang out of bed and made for the door. At that moment the ceiling began to split. Nurse Beadon had just time to drag her patient back, push him half under the bed, and throw herself over his prostrate body, when the chimney fell with a crash. Mortar, bricks, and *débris* of all sorts fell around them, one brick falling on Miss Beadon's back and hurting her badly. Her petticoats were pinned to the ground by a huge mass of masonry. With great difficulty she disengaged herself and shouted for help, but found that the door was blocked. Mr. Macnaghten was a big six-foot man, but Nurse Beadon dragged and half pushed him to the window, and managed to lift

him up and push him through the window into the arms of the attendant, who was standing below. After getting her patient safely out of the building, Nurse Beadon still refused to abandon her post of duty. She went back into the room in order to get blankets and bedding and throw them out of the window. The walls kept rocking and threatening to fall, and the people outside begged her to leave the building. She merely answered: 'I am coming; give the sahib some brandy.' With her arms full of clothes she was making her way to the window again, when one of the walls fell, blocking her way, but fortunately not touching her. When the dust cleared she scrambled over the *débris* to the window, to find there was hardly room to get through. She stuck in it, and had to be pulled through by the servants, who bruised and hurt her terribly, but she never uttered a word. Shaking her garments, which were torn to ribbons, she commenced making an improvised tent out of blankets and a chair for her patient. During this time she had to stand for fully an hour in the drenching rain, with no protection but her torn nurse's dress. Happily, neither she nor her patient suffered any permanent injury from the adventure they underwent and the subsequent exposure to the storm."

From *Truth* we quote the following paragraph:

"There has been considerable heartburning at Rangoon in consequence of the sisters of the nursing staff at the Staff Hospital having received no invitations to the public ball at Government House on Diamond Jubilee Day. The public ball at Government House is an annual event, and the nurses have always been asked hitherto. Why they should have been left out this year, of all others, is a question which the parties responsible for the issue of invitations may very well be expected to explain. A nurse's life in hospital at Rangoon is certainly not a happy one. It is rendered additionally trying by the enervating climate and the total absence of all local amusements; and it really seems rather a hard-hearted thing to deprive these ladies of the one little annual treat for which they had naturally been looking. It seems that the doctors were all invited to the ball, though had the guests generally been consulted, I should say that they would rather have seen the nurses."

This question of nursing sisters attending balls at the stations where they are on duty has been touched on by our contemporary before. Personally, we are of opinion that a higher tone would be maintained in the Indian Army Nursing Service if ladies were selected who did not affect dancing and races. Surely the type of woman who should be placed in the very responsible position of nursing our soldiers should be those whose tastes and habits are altogether averse to any form of frivolity. To be whirling about in the arms of a man one day, and performing the delicate duties necessary when attending upon him if ill the next, cannot be conducive to good discipline, and it appears to us, therefore, that such extreme situations were wiser avoided.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)