

should be as high as possible. He did not go into details, but remarked that it would be easy enough to arrange how high the standard should be raised. It was the opinion of the Princess that those nurses who received certificates as "Queen's Nurses" must be women who were thoroughly efficient in every duty they undertook to perform. This is a most important announcement, and "Queen's Nurses" will, we feel sure, warmly re-echo the opinion of the President of the Scottish Branch. We have over and over again expressed our opinion on the anomaly of women in this country bearing the honoured title of "Queen's Nurse" who had not attained to the highest professional standard exacted by our leading training schools before they were awarded their certificates of efficiency.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

THE report of the Scottish Council of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses is an interesting record of much useful work. During the year ending 31st October, 1897, ten candidates entered the Training Home for the required month of probation before receiving Hospital training. Twenty-nine probationers who had received Hospital training entered the Home for District training, and twenty-three nurses completed their full training as Queen's nurses in Edinburgh. At Glasgow, nine entered for District training during the year; six completed their training. In the Dundee Home, two entered for District training; three completed their training.

The usual lectures have been given in the Home on hygiene, gynæcology, diets, the nursing of fevers, also instruction in cookery. Twenty-five nurses have been engaged from the Home by local committees.

The Council has, in common with many other charities, to report a falling off in subscriptions during the past year. The decrease amounts to no less than £115. This, taken in conjunction with the fact that expenditure is increasing year by year, shows a serious condition of affairs. It is to be hoped that the annual subscriptions will be increased, so as to cover the ordinary yearly expenditure, and that special gifts may be set aside for the purpose of extending the work of the Institute in outlying regions. Surely the public will not allow so good a work to be crippled for want of funds.

The Nursing of Maternity Cases.

By MARGARET BREAY,

Late Superintendent St. John's Maternity Home.

THE importance of careful nursing in maternity cases can scarcely be over-estimated, and it is proposed briefly to lay down some general rules which may be of use to those who are engaged in this most important branch of nursing.

It is now generally conceded that the woman who undertakes the nursing of women in child-birth must have received a general training in order to fit her for this duty. It is becoming more and more widely recognized that this work cannot safely be undertaken by those unfortunate people—impecunious widows—who formerly used to be considered eminently suitable as monthly nurses, after a two months' experience in a lying-in hospital, on the ground that they had had children themselves, and must, therefore, of necessity know how to nurse others under the same conditions! A time of illness, agony, and weakness is not conducive to acquiring fresh knowledge, and it is very doubtful whether a woman in labour has the least idea of the nursing details which are carried out at her bedside. Therefore, even if, as one sometimes hears a woman say, "I've had six myself," as a guarantee that she can nurse others, it must be pointed out that the knowledge based upon observations gathered from six cases, even if one's faculties are at their keenest, is far too limited to be a safe qualification for the care of others.

It must further be pointed out that a monthly nurse, who has paid twelve guineas for two months' teaching, and afterwards charges the public eight and ten guineas a month for her nursing services, gets exceptional interest for the money she has invested, but that the public get a very doubtful equivalent for the money which they pay. Ten guineas is a very usual fee for the services for a complete month of an obstetric nurse who has had both general and special training, and who is really competent for the work she undertakes. We will assume, therefore, that the maternity nurse also holds a certificate for medical and surgical nursing. It may further be assumed that her special training includes experience not only in monthly nursing but also in *midwifery*. It

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)