

years. Madame Cahen had already the honour of receiving a cross from the Empress Augusta of Germany, in 1872, when the philanthropic French lady was looking after the interests of her countrymen, who were lying in German Hospitals or prisons."

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MR. EDITOR asks me to announce that the Prize Essay judges have awarded the prize for last month's Competition to Miss Annie Blissett, who is so well-known to readers of this Journal by the many most interesting articles which she has contributed to these columns. Honourable mention is given to the Essay of Mrs. Gay, which will also, I believe, appear in our pages as soon as space can be found for its insertion. The Competition has elicited from one of our readers in Denmark a most interesting Article, which Mr. Editor hopes to be able to publish very shortly. The organisation of Nursing is apparently very backward in that country, and the scheme which our contributor proposes for its improvement will sound strange to those of our readers who are accustomed to the order and discipline of an English Hospital.

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UNDER the auspices of the Scottish branch of the Queen Victoria Nurses' Institute, a very interesting meeting was held on the 17th of last month in Edinburgh, Lord Provost Boyd presiding. Amongst the large and distinguished company present were the Countess of Rosebery, Lord Trayner, Mr. J. B. Balfour, Q.C., M.P., Sir Thomas Clark, Bart., Sir Douglas Maclagan, Sir Arthur Mitchell, Professors Annandale and Wallace; Dr. Cameron, Glasgow; Lady Fanny Marjoribanks, the Hon. Mrs. Trayner, Lady Muir, Miss Muir, Lady Clark, Lady Boyd, Miss Guthrie Wright, Miss Flora Stevenson, the Hon. Mrs. Hope of Belmont, the Hon. Mrs. Blair, the Hon. Mrs. Balfour, and many other well known ladies and gentlemen. The chairman, in the course of a very interesting speech, remarked that the nursing of the sick poor in their own homes was not a new idea, but the proposed institute would organise the work in a field of usefulness, where incalculable good might be done in alleviating suffering. It was desirable, he considered, that existing societies having the same end in view should be united. Mr. J. B. Balfour, M.P., on behalf of the Provisional Committee, laid before the meeting the particulars relating to the institute. In the course of last year, he said, the Queen was pleased to express a desire that the surplus of the Women's Jubilee offering should be devoted to the promotion of Nursing. In accordance with the recommendation of a committee, consisting of the Duke of Westminster, Sir James Paget, and Sir

Rutherford Alcock, Her Majesty decided upon the foundation of an institution for promoting the education and maintenance of Nurses for the sick poor in their own homes—the proposal being that the chief centre should be in London, and that there should be smaller central institutions in Edinburgh and Dublin. The Scottish Provisional Committee was established for the purpose of administering the Scottish share of the fund, and for carrying out the objects of the Institute.

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THE Committee had had the inestimable advantage of having Lady Rosebery as its president. He was sure he expressed the opinion of every member of the Committee in saying that the services and the untiring personal labour which Lady Rosebery had bestowed upon the work were above all praise. She had presided at every meeting, and by incessant labour and her influence had done a great deal to further the work. The speaker concluded by reading a long letter to Lady Rosebery from Miss Florence Nightingale commending the Institute. Miss Nightingale wrote: "The District Nurse must make the poor sick-room a place where the sick poor at home can recover. She must first be a Nurse, but she must also nurse the room—in cleanliness, in ventilation, in removing every sort of foulness. That is an essential part of her duties. She must have a skilful tact and kindness to induce, to teach the patient's friends how to do this. Besides a Nurse, she must be a sanitary missionary, not an almsgiver, for where doles are given Nursing flies out at the window, or rather remains outside the door. But she must know what sanitary authorities to have recourse to, in what respects the necessary offices of a dwelling are deficient or neglected. She must know to what charitable agencies to have recourse, when there is real want of food, clothing, bedding, but especially of medical comforts. She is not herself to form another pauperising agency, but to depauperise. There is no need to say that she is never to be a religious proselytiser; but may she not say the little word in season without doctrine? Her acts of kindness and trained skill, however, will be her best doctrine."

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I AM very glad to hear of the successful Christmas fête held last Friday at the Evelina Hospital for Sick Children. Through the generosity of various friends, four large Christmas trees were provided, and these, brilliantly illuminated and weighed down with toys of all descriptions, filled the little patients with delight. In the course of the evening the gifts were distributed to the children by the Committee of Management and the Sisters,

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