

opening of the New Park Hospital of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, by the Prince of Wales, a building admirably planned and appointed, which must be of the utmost benefit to the sick, and to nurses as a training school. Miss M. E. Jones has been appointed Matron of this important institution.

#### NURSING UNDER THE POOR LAW.

In the annals of workhouse nursing the importance of the Order issued by the Local Government Board with regard to the abolition of pauper assistance in workhouse infirmaries, and the appointment of superintendent nurses, who must have received at least three years' training, in all infirmaries where the nursing staff numbers three or more persons, cannot be over-estimated. The Irish Local Government Board speedily followed suit, and important improvements in the nursing of Irish Workhouse Infirmaries are anticipated. Considerable activity is being shown at the present in the organization of their workhouse nursing. Ireland, as a Roman Catholic country, has a good material upon which to draw for workhouse nurses, in the nuns of the different communities. These nuns are, however, for the most part, untrained, and a scheme is being organized, on a county basis, by means of which these ladies may be afforded skilled instruction from expert teachers. Miss Pringle (late Matron of St. Thomas's Hospital), and Miss Holcroft, trained at the London Hospital, are actively taking part in the scheme, and we understand that the nuns are very apt pupils. The conditions under which they have to work are, no doubt, disadvantageous. As a nation, we are apt to plume ourselves upon our merits, and to freely criticize the shortcomings of other nations, but we doubt if even in the East there will be found a greater lack of nursing organization, requisites, and appliances, than is to be found in many Irish Workhouse Infirmaries. The brave band of pioneer reformers are worthy of all honour and regard. Another most important event in Poor Law Nursing is the decision of the Workhouse Infirmaries Nursing Association that the time has come for the work of the Association to cease. The Association has, since its formation, done invaluable work in raising the standard of nursing in workhouse infirmaries, and retires upon its laurels, having worked for, and seen accomplished, the abolition of pauper nursing.

We agree with Miss Louisa Twining that the Association can no longer cope with the magnitude of the work, and that the nursing of Poor Law Infirmaries should be undertaken by the State. Another important matter which requires notice is the repeal of those provisions of the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, which pressed hardly upon Nurses. We also record with pleasure the fact that good nurse-training schools are springing up in connection with various Poor Law Infirmaries.

#### RURAL NURSING.

Considerable energy has been shown during the past year in the formation of County Nursing Associations, both in England and Scotland. Several counties have followed the example set by Lady Winchelsea in Lincolnshire, and have organized bands of working women, who have received a certain amount of training, to act as Cottage Nurses in the Homes of the poor.

#### PRIVATE NURSING.

It is satisfactory to know that more private nursing institutions have been started exacting a three years' course of training as a necessary qualification for joining the staff. But, we have not the slightest doubt, being in possession of information which we propose shortly to lay before our readers, that a great number of Hospitals, and of Private Nursing Institutions, still farm out inefficient women, who have received only a year's training or even less; and the fee asked for the services of these persons is often less than the recognized sum of £2 2s. a week. No doubt the fee required is often in excess of the value of the services of the person so supplied; but it must be remembered that, by thus lowering the fees, the earnings of competent nurses are reduced.

#### DISTRICT NURSING.

This most important branch of nursing has this year received a considerable impetus, owing to the fact that a special appeal for an increase of funds to the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute in commemoration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, has elicited a cordial response from the nation, and the sum at present subscribed amounts to some £80,000. In Scotland, under the presidency of Her Royal Highness Princess

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