

Nursing Echoes.

* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



THE Countess of Aberdeen, President of the Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada, has received the following most kind letter from Miss Florence Nightingale:—

"Dear Lady Aberdeen,—I do rejoice at the success which has attended your efforts to initiate the plan for establishing trained district nurses in Canada. With great interest I have read the papers you have so kindly sent me. Let me gladly add myself as a witness of experience here to the great blessings which the trained district nurses have been to the sick poor.

"If you are able to maintain the high standard for your nurses which you have laid down, and succeed in attracting good young women to enter upon the work, there can be no doubt that it will go on and prosper. Difficulties and trials there must be, but with so noble an object it is worth the expenditure of much labour and patience.

"What has been the experience of the last thirty years with regard to the improvement of hospital training and the means by which it has been attained? This, namely, that it has been brought about, first, by making the hospital a 'home' fit for good young women—educated young women—to live in and pursue their calling, and, next, by raising the character of nursing into a genuine calling by which nurses can earn an honourable livelihood. Then from the hospital training school the area of the trained nurses' work became extended to private nursing—nursing the well-to-do—and latterly to that far more numerous class of patients who are either entirely destitute or only able to make a small contribution for the services of the nurse, and yet who are not fit subjects for hospital treatment.

"It is especially, and above all, to this last class that the trained nurse has proved so great a boon. For the duties of a district nurse, more experience, more self-denial is wanted than for those of a hospital nurse or private nurse, who have the doctor always at hand to refer to, and have all the appliances of hospital or home at the service of the patient.

"The success of district nursing depends more than in hospital and private nursing upon the character of the nurse; and the character of the nurse depends very much upon the nature of her training, and the continuance of those helps, physical and moral, which the good hospital 'home' has supplied to her.

"These helps have been found in the system of district nurses' homes under trained superintendents, which have been established here with so much success in London, Edinburgh, Dublin, and other large towns, and which you propose to adopt in Canada. Is it not to these homes that you will have to look to train in district work, and qualify for work in small towns and

country places—pursuing their calling under periodical supervision, and as members of a society, inspired by the *esprit de corps* of joint workers in a noble and Christian cause? No doubt in some respects your population, especially in rural districts, differs much from that of an old country, and somewhat different methods will be required. Happily, there does not exist with you that large number of sick poor who are unable to pay anything for the services of the nurse.

"Heartily do we wish success to the Victorian Nurses, and to all Canadian workers in this good cause."

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HOTEL proprietors will be wary as to allowing sick people to remain in their establishments after the verdict recently given in the case of *McQuade v. Gardiner*. Last year Mrs. McQuade, an Australian lady, with her two daughters and a maid, came over for the Jubilee celebrations, and went to stay at the Queen's Gate Hotel, of which Mrs. M. E. Gardiner is the proprietor, on June 9th. After a few days Miss McQuade became indisposed, although still able to go out of doors. At the beginning of July a medical man who had been called in said that his patient was suffering from typhoid fever. Mrs. McQuade and her daughter remained at the hotel until August 18th. She denies the statement made by Mrs. Gardiner that she agreed, if allowed to remain at the hotel, to pay for disinfecting and redecorating the room, and for any loss Mrs. Gardiner might suffer in her business.

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THE liability of the plaintiff in this case appears to us to depend to a great extent upon the manner in which her daughter contracted the disease. If it was due to any defective sanitary arrangements, or impure water, or milk supply at the hotel in question, we should say she would be within her right to bring an action for damages against the hotel proprietors. It is, without doubt, of the highest importance that hotel proprietors should be able to prove that their arrangements in these respects are irreproachable. It does not appear that this question was raised at all during the trial of the action.

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ON the other hand, if the disease were contracted outside the hotel, it is obvious that a serious monetary loss was inflicted upon the proprietor by retaining the patient on her premises, and she should clearly be recouped for this loss by the person who caused it, as well as for the cost incurred in disinfecting and redecorating the room which had been occupied. The proprietor of the hotel, as well as the manageress, gave evidence that some sixty or seventy persons who came to the hotel left immediately upon being informed of the nature of the illness. This in the Jubilee Year would mean a serious loss. Mrs. McQuade, however, on leaving the Hotel, declined to leave a deposit to cover the charges of the sanitary authorities, or to "pay anything." The

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