

A Loss to our Training Schools.

THE resignation of Miss Cassandra Beachcroft of the position which she has filled with so much distinction for the past fourteen years, that of Lady Superintendent to the Lincoln County Hospital, is a severe loss to our Nurse Training Schools, and one which we can ill afford in these days of the transition of nursing from a heaven-born vocation, to a well organized profession for women. Miss Beachcroft received her training as a Lady Probationer in the London Hospital twenty years ago, and it was here that we first met her, and learned to value her sterling worth and extreme kindness of heart.

Miss Beachcroft was ultimately promoted to be the Sister of the Rachel Wards at the London Hospital, which contain upwards of fifty beds, and she only resigned this onerous charge upon recovering from a very severe attack of enteric fever, in which her life was for a time despaired of.

In 1881 she was appointed Sister of Hope Ward at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where she worked with her usual untiring devotion until 1884, when she was selected as Lady Superintendent to the County Hospital, Lincoln, and there found full scope for her great organizing ability, the nursing school of which institution has under her fine disciplinary powers, attained a well deserved reputation for efficiency. Miss Beachcroft was one of the most active founders of the British Nurses' Association and worked to further its original high aims with energy, and was one of the few Matrons who was invited to sign the Incorporation Clause of the Royal Charter. Alas! she has felt compelled in these latter degenerate days, to sever her connection with the Association, and resigned her membership, last year upon the New Bye-Laws coming into force.

After rest, we hope Miss Beachcroft will again take up active nursing work—we can ill afford to lose women of her courage and ability from the professional ranks.

Appointments.

LADY SUPERINTENDENT.

MISS MARY E. RAY has been selected out of 90 candidates to fill the important position of Lady Superintendent to the County Hospital, Lincoln, which is one of the most beautiful of our county hospitals. Miss Ray was trained at King's College Hospital, London, and was subsequently Sister there for two and a half years, during which time she had charge of the Operating Theatre. Since March, 1896, Miss Ray has held the post of Assistant-Superintendent of Nurses at the General Infirmary, Leeds, and during the absence of the Matron has had entire charge of the Nursing Department of that important Institution.

Queen Victoria's Institute.

SCOTTISH BRANCH.

WE have received from the Secretary of the Scottish Branch of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses the tenth annual report of the Institute. We heartily congratulate the Council on the work which has been accomplished, and upon the progress which has been made during the past year. The minimum training required of Queen's Nurses in Scotland is two years in a General Hospital approved by the Council, six months in the District Nursing Home, during which time they attend lectures, and receive training in Monthly Nursing, and Superintendents and nurses going to country districts are also sent to a Maternity Hospital for three months. This training, therefore, is little short of the three years standard, and if the Council could see their way to give probationers three months experience in a fever hospital they would then reach this standard, and give their nurses a very complete training. Some experience of fever work is very valuable to district nurses as, in the course of their duty, they may often come in contact with infectious diseases, and it is important that they should be able to recognize them.

The courses of lectures given in the Home include those on hygiene, diet, also fevers, and obstetrics. Cookery lessons are also given. An excellent rule of the Council is that candidates enter the Training Home for a month before beginning their hospital work. The superintendent is therefore able to judge whether they are likely to make suitable District Nurses.

There are at present 173 Queen's Nurses in Scotland working under 94 Associations. During the past year Miss Wade and her assistants have made ninety-six inspections of single nurses and smaller Homes, seven new branches have been affiliated to the Institute, and a County Association in Lanarkshire has been formed and affiliated.

The total amount collected in Scotland in response to an appeal by a Committee in London to raise a Queen's Commemoration Fund to endow Queen Victoria's Institute for Nurses in connection with the Diamond Jubilee was £12,193 3s. 6d.

We are sorry to see that the receipts of the Scottish Branch do not equal the expenditure, and that it has been necessary to defray the deficiency out of Capital Funds. We feel sure the excellent work done by the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute in Scotland will not be allowed to be hampered by lack of funds. We feel sure that the Council with their Hon. Secretary, Miss Guthrie Wright, and their Superintendent, Miss Wade, administer the funds with the utmost economy and circumspection, and it is not too much to ask that so excellent an institution shall be relieved of anxiety as to money matters.

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