

### The Victorian Order of Nurses.

THE Victorian Order of Nurses was founded by the Countess of Aberdeen as a Canadian memorial of the Diamond Jubilee of the Queen, during the term in which Lord Aberdeen was Governor-General. The idea was happily conceived, for the new order has been the means of furnishing skilful nursing to many patients unable for various reasons to secure the continuous service of trained nurses in their homes. This has been accomplished without competing or interfering with the private practice of other trained nurses. The aim of the order is to establish visiting nurses in such parts of the Dominion as have no trained nurses, and wherever the experiment has been tried there are many glad to bear testimony to the value of the service. In the cities the work of the Victorian nurses is chiefly among patients who are unable to pay for the continuous service of a trained nurse in private practice. The order brings trained service within the reach of many who have heretofore been forced to depend on the well-intentioned but untaught help of friends and relatives. The plan of the Managing Committee is carried out by two training homes, one in Toronto and one in Montreal, for the drilling of nurses in district work. Ottawa was selected for the location of a training home, but it was found that the city did not afford sufficient practice to train nurses in the established course of six months. Before being admitted to a training home a nurse must have a thorough hospital course and be duly qualified to engage in private practice. The training of the order is an additional course, and the difference between the appliances in the hospital and the makeshifts and devices necessary in attending patients in the homes of the poor calls forth the resources of a nurse, thus fitting her for the more difficult duties of district work.

The staff in the Toronto training home consists of the Matron and four nurses. Miss Eastwood has been in charge since the home was established in March, 1898, being specially fitted for the work by previous experience in district nursing, which means the nursing of patients at their home without hospital appliances, and generally by means of short daily visits. In many cases it is found expedient to make two visits per day, but occasionally a visit means eight or nine hours' continuous attendance. The aim is to establish each nurse in a district on the completion of her special course. The Toronto home has already established seven graduates in outside districts, the points selected being New Richmond, Kingston, North Bay, Bracebridge, Fort Frances and Vernon, B.C., two being located at the latter place. The establishment of a Victorian nurse at New Richmond was exceptionally fortunate, as

her services were available during a severe epidemic of scarlet fever, in which her continuous attendance and supervision of sanitary precautions helped to avert suffering and loss of life. There are no trained nurses in private practice at any of these points, with the exception of Kingston, and there, as in Toronto and Montreal, the Victorian nurses have a field exclusively their own. During the past month the four nurses on the staff of the Toronto training home made 388 visits, and it is expected that during the present month the record will reach 400. That will not be unprecedented, for a greater number of visits has already been recorded in a single month.

The staff of the Montreal Training Home consists of a Matron and six nurses in training, and the general condition of the city tends to make continuous demands on their service. Several who have completed the course there have been stationed in outlying districts, and at every point their services have been thoroughly appreciated. The Northwest Territories, where there are now but few nurses in private practice, will be a good field of usefulness for these graduates. Already there is a Victorian Order nurse at Fort MacLeod, and others will be sent west as soon as circumstances will permit. Halifax, St. John, Buckingham, Thessalon and Fort William are among the points where nurses have been stationed. All the nurses in the order work for salary, and the small fees they charge go into the common funds. Such receipts are but trifling compared with the cost of maintaining the service and training homes, and the scope of the work is limited by the private and public aid secured. Last year the Provincial Legislature voted \$2,500 toward the cost of maintaining the service in the pioneer districts of Ontario, and private subscriptions have been fairly liberal. It is a field for charitable offerings in which good results are assured. The order is careful to work in harmony with the medical profession, and no nurse visits a patient except on the call of a physician. That rule is not a hardship to the poor, for the work of the Victorian nurse often supplements medical attendance furnished at the expense of municipalities and charitable societies.

### Appointments.

#### HEAD SISTER.

MISS FLORENCE CADENHEAD, who has been appointed Head Sister at the Royal Naval Hospital, Chatham, was trained and certificated at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. Previous to entering for training in this institution, she nursed at the Alexandra Hospital for Hip Disease, Queen Square. Miss Cadenhead joined the Royal Naval Service at Haslar in 1886, and has served in Malta as well as at Plymouth.

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