

association from the city with its forty to fifty nurses, and their superintendents in various homes, to the solitary nurse in the remoteness of the country. Each association keeps its reports, etc., on the same lines, and from each the same standard of work is required.

The inspector comes as a friend alike to the nurse and the committee, visiting the cases, seeing the books, and helping by her experience and advice to smooth over any little difficulties that may arise. It is the evenness of the work thus obtained that is making it a success by securing a uniform standard throughout the land.

Two other fundamental principles of the Institute are:—

1. That the nurses shall not be almoners. Their work is nursing, and nursing only, though they are encouraged to bring deserving cases to the notice of the proper local authorities, and in every way thus to secure necessary sick comforts for their patients.

2. That the nurses shall never interfere with the religious views of their patients.

These two rules lift the work of Queen's Nurses above suspicion of almsgiving and proselytizing. At the same time the nurses are left free to bring their patients in touch with the local agencies that make for good.

Nor must the indirect benefits of the work of the Queen's Institute (and of other nursing associations based upon right principles) be overlooked. They foster the spirit of independence and help the people to help themselves.

That this spirit does obtain in many localities is proved by the fact that in a quarry district in Wales two nurses are supported, and there is a balance of over £300 in the bank, which, with the exception of about £50, is contributed annually by the workmen, and in another district the nurse is practically supported by half-crown yearly subscriptions.

Nor is this all. By interesting the well-to-do of a district in their poorer neighbours, the Queen's Nurses form a valuable link in the chain of union between capital and labour.

There are excellent systems by which sick and convalescent diets, warm garments, and convalescent aid in giving change of air, etc., are brought to those who by no fault of their own are unable to obtain these extra necessaries when sickness is among them. Among these may be mentioned the Scottish Needlework Guild, the Bedford Sick Dinners Society, the London Convalescent Dinners Aid Society, and many others.

Then also the nurses can bring the homes of the patients to the notice of the local sanitary authorities, thus insuring cleanliness, a proper water supply, and other simple but essential necessities for healthy surroundings. Though forbidden to proselytize, their influence is the open

door by which those who seek the moral welfare of their poorer brethren may obtain an entrance where other means have proved unavailing.

The personal interest of her late Majesty in this work has invested it with universal interest. This interest showed itself in many ways. The Council of the Queen's Institute was appointed by her, the names of all nurses were submitted to her before they were placed on the roll of "Queen's Nurses," and even the details of the Nurses' uniforms were chosen by her. Those present at the gathering of "Queen's Nurses" at Windsor Castle, on July 2nd, 1896, will not easily forget the enthusiasm kindled by the gracious, kindly words addressed to them by one who ever proved herself a woman full of sympathy with those in trouble and distress. "I am very much pleased to see my nurses here to-day, and to hear of the good work they are doing. I am sure they will continue to do it." Her Majesty's special recognition of the "Queen's Nurses" in Ireland, on the occasion of her visit there, was deeply appreciated, and gave a direct stimulus to the work in that country. Her last message to the Council was given on February 24th, 1900, and runs thus:

"Her Majesty desires me to express the sincere satisfaction with which she learns that the Institute continues to prosper and is so much appreciated." This interest is continued by the present Queen. In July this year some hundreds of Queen's Nurses received their badges from the hands of Queen Alexandra, thus establishing her identity with the Institute as its present head.

Queen Alexandra's first address to the Jubilee Nurses, at Marlborough House, July 3rd, 1901, His Majesty the King being present, with H.R.H. Princess Victoria, H.R.H. Princess Louise (Duchess of Argyll), and Prince Albert and Princess Victoria of Cornwall and York, is as follows:—

"It gives me the greatest pleasure to receive you all here to-day, and it is most gratifying to me to be able to carry on the noble work founded by our dearly beloved and never-to-be-forgotten Queen Victoria. I have always taken the most sincere interest in nurses and nursing, and it affords me heartfelt satisfaction to be associated in your labours of love and charity.

"I can, indeed, imagine no better or holier calling than that in which you are engaged of tending the poor and suffering in their own homes in the hour of their greatest need. I shall follow with interest the reports of the Institute, and shall anxiously note the progress which you are making from year to year.

"I pray that God's blessing may rest upon your devoted and unselfish work, and that He will have you all in His holy keeping."

A special effort is being made by means of the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)