

missioner and teach the principles of hygiene, and the proper methods of feeding infants. Preventive nursing may well follow in the steps of preventive medicine, and it is impossible to estimate how many lives might be saved, how many more children might grow up strong and healthy instead of weak and ailing, if such teaching were given and followed. Every nurse in a children's hospital could tell how cot after cot is filled by children who are the victims of improper feeding, and from the point of view of economy alone it would pay over and over again to maintain a nurse in every parish to visit the homes of the poor and teach the mothers how to keep their children in health, instead of supporting costly hospitals to nurse them when they fall victims to improper dieting. When the British working-class mother learns that "a little of everything that we have ourselves" is not a suitable diet for her baby, a great step will have been gained. Tinned salmon, red herrings and potatoes, pork sausages, cheese, and plum cake are quite common articles of diet of the baby a few months old. What wonder that our children's wards are filled with tiny patients suffering from marasmus, diarrhoea, or colic! As nurses we have learned to bring all our skill to bear upon nursing back to health the wizened scraps of humanity who are the products of this unwise feeding; but the possibilities of the service which may be rendered to humanity by those who will undertake the systematic instruction of mothers in the methods of wholesome feeding of children are infinite. It is better to put a fence at the top of a precipice than to provide an ambulance at the bottom.

Arrangements have been made in Nottingham for a house-to-house collection in the city on behalf of the Women's National Memorial to Queen Victoria, and the Nottingham District Nursing Endowment Fund. The outcome of the joint collection will be divided between the two objects specified. Both objects are so popular that no doubt a generous response will await the collectors when they get to work.

Colonel Girard, who has been in command of the United States Army General Hospital at San Francisco ever since it was built, and who is most popular with the nursing staff, has now resigned his appointment. Before leaving he promulgated an order in which he set forth his regrets and made his acknowledgments to all, from the highest to the lowest, who had helped to bring the hospital up to its present condition of efficiency. Of the nurses he said: "The nurses, a body new to the army, have proved their great value in the tender and intelligent care of the sick, and have given the finishing touch of female delicacy to the wards, and are entitled to the greatest praise in consideration."

## The Hospital World.

### THE PRESTON ROYAL INFIRMARY.

It was a busy day for the officials of the Preston and County of Lancaster Queen Victoria Royal Infirmary, to give it its full and surely somewhat cumbersome title, when the Guild Mayor, the Earl of Derby, accompanied by the Countess of Derby, visited it last week on a threefold mission, viz., to open the Nurses' Home forming the Diamond Jubilee Wing, and the Robert Charles Brown operating theatre, and to lay the foundation-stone of the out-patient department.

The Mayor and Mayoress arrived in a carriage drawn by four horses with bewigged outriders, and succeeding carriages brought, amongst other notables, Lord Stanley, Lord Lathom, and the Bishop of Burnley.

They were received by Mr. W. P. Park, Chairman of the Board of Management, and Miss Grace Goffin, Matron. All the members of the nursing staff who could be spared from the wards were drawn up in the hall, forming a very charming guard of honour.

#### THE NURSES' HOME.

The Mayor and Mayoress were then conducted to the main entrance of the Nurses' Home, where a large number of invited guests had assembled.

The Chairman of the hospital in welcoming Lord and Lady Derby said that the presence of the Guild Mayor was specially appropriate, not only because of the civic office which he filled, but because he was also the first President of the institution. It was also through Lord Derby that the Royal assent was obtained to alter the name of the institution, so that it might be a record of the veneration and love which they all had for their late Queen, in commemoration of whose Diamond Jubilee the Home about to be opened had been erected. Mr. Park then presented to Lady Derby the key of the building, and she performed the opening ceremony amidst much applause. The Home, which is a handsome and convenient building, provides accommodation for about forty nurses.

#### THE OPERATING THEATRE.

After inspecting the Nurses' Home, the Countess ceremoniously unlocked the door of the operating theatre, which has been provided through the liberality of Dr. R. C. Brown, who is a consulting medical officer to the Infirmary, President of the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch of the British Medical Association, and an Esquire of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. The Guild Mayor then proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Brown, which was carried by acclamation. In acknowledging the vote, Dr. Brown said he could confidently recommend anyone who intended to leave money to the Infirmary to give some of it in his lifetime, so that he could have

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