

remainder of the support is from voluntary subscriptions, no charge being made to the patients."

Two sets of deaconesses, the Anglican and the Methodists, do district nursing also in the City of Toronto. Some of these women are admitted to Grace Hospital and Western Hospital for three months' training, and afterwards, in connection with their course in Church and Bible history, they go out in district nursing during the remainder of their two years.

In Montreal, district nursing started in connection with a diet dispensary which was established in 1879, but it was not until six years later that the necessity for a visiting nurse became apparent to the managers of the institution. The success of this nurse's work was so marked that very soon an assistant was appointed. Neither of these women was trained, but the pioneer in the work served for thirteen years before her retirement.

Early in the year 1897, the year of the celebration of our late beloved Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the women of Western or Newer Canada recommended that an organisation be formed as a Jubilee offering to her Majesty, which would provide nursing service in the more remote districts of the Dominion. The Countess of Aberdeen, wife of the then Governor-General of Canada, responded in a most enthusiastic manner to this proposal. But to carry such a scheme to a successful issue in so varied and extensive a country as Canada proved to be a difficult task. When the project known as the Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada was finally launched, owing to the false rumours as to the aims of the Order, it met with little or no favourable response from either doctors or nurses. Dr. Alfred Worcester, of Waltham, Massachusetts, who was invited by the Countess of Aberdeen for this purpose, aided very materially in overcoming the prejudices of many by giving addresses in some of the larger cities on district nursing, and by showing how the Victorian Order might be managed on more economical lines than were at first thought possible. Finally a fund was started and organisation began. The constitution, by-laws, and regulations were drawn up and a royal charter procured. The royal charter authorised the formation of a Board of Governors which should have the management and control of the order and of its affairs, and it also appointed his Excellency the Governor-General of Canada as patron.

Five members of the Board of Governors are selected by the patron, and the others by the Canadian Medical Association, by each Provincial Medical Association, and by each local association according to the amount of its yearly income. There is an Executive Council, made up from the members from the board, whose numbers and powers are defined by the Governors.

The chief lady superintendent is appointed by

the Board of Governors, and the most prominent among her duties are the organising of new branches, recommending suitable district lady superintendents and nurses, overseeing their work, and reporting on the same. The Order undertakes to teach district nursing.

Only nurses holding diplomas from some recognised hospital training school and who come highly recommended are considered eligible for the course of training in district nursing. A period of four months' probation is given at the training home either at Montreal or Toronto to test the adaptability, tact, and previous training of these nurses. During that time they are provided with board, lodging, laundry, and an allowance of 20 dols. a month. At the expiration of this course the nurse, if she is desirous and has proved herself acceptable, is recommended to the Board of Governors as a candidate for the Order. She is then presented with her diploma and badge, either by her Excellency the wife of the Governor-General, or by one of the governors, who admits her to the Order in the following words:—

"By the authority of the Board of Governors, I have the honour of admitting you formally into the ranks of the Victorian Order of Nurses. You have been recommended to the Board of Governors by the chief lady superintendent as a nurse possessing the qualifications and training which our order requires, and have proved through your training in district nursing your efficiency in all your nursing work and your willingness to observe all the regulations of the Order. We, therefore, welcome you very heartily to the Order, and we enlist you for active service for two years. May you be enabled to carry into action the true spirit of the Order, and may God's best blessing rest upon you."

The nurse thus admitted and pledged for two years' service in the Order must be prepared to go anywhere in the Dominion, either for district nursing or to serve in one of the cottage hospitals. She is provided with her outfit (uniform and nursing bag) and receives a salary of not less than 300 dols. a year, with maintenance and laundry. She is also entitled to one month's holiday each year. Should she remain in the Order for three or more years, she will have a miniature badge presented to her like the one worn by her during her term of service, with the dates of entrance and retirement engraved on it, as a souvenir of her work.

The trustees of the Waltham Training School for Nurses at the inception of the Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada sent over their superintendent for three months, and afterwards released her from her duties at Waltham that she might accept permanently the position of chief lady superintendent of the Order. She, with five nurses who had graduated at Waltham, began work early in February of 1898. During the three months branches were

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