

established in four of the larger cities and four nurses were equipped and sent with the militia to the Yukon, where they performed most heroic services.

The work of the Order has slowly, but steadily progressed, and has been extended from coast to coast. Out of the twenty-six branches which have been established in a little over three years, twenty-four are carrying on the work successfully. In all there are fifty nurses engaged in the work.

This year a greater effort than ever is being made to provide suitable buildings for cottage hospitals. Her Excellency the Countess of Minto is doing much to create a special fund for this purpose. It will be known as the "Lady Minto Fund for erecting Queen Victoria Cottage Hospitals," in memory of our late beloved Sovereign. Model plans have already been drawn for cottage hospitals to accommodate either six or ten patients, two nurses, and a maid. Since the inauguration of the Order seven cottage hospitals have been established, and, although several of these buildings may be regarded as mere apologies for hospitals, most excellent work has been done within their walls.

As an illustration of the assistance afforded by the Order in establishing cottage hospitals, which, after all, are really district nursing stations, the following account is given:—

In a small town in the North-west Territories the women, who are members of the National Council, had put by a small sum of money towards a building fund for a hospital; but as they met with no encouragement from the men of the town, they felt their project must be postponed indefinitely. Just then the Victorian Order came to their assistance and advised them to rent a cottage and make it habitable for patients. A nurse from the Order was sent to take charge. Within a few months a request was made by the local committee for a second nurse. In the following year patients were refused admittance, owing to the overcrowded condition of the building. Enteric fever, maternity, surgical, and chronic cases have all been cared for there, and several major operations have been performed in the small room which the nurses occupy as their dining and sitting-room. Great inconveniences have been overcome by these devoted nurses in their desire to serve these patients, who otherwise in many cases would have been left to take shelter in a third-rate boarding-house, with only such care as the slatternly servants might give them. However, the nurses have now been rewarded, having just moved into a fine brick building erected for this purpose. As the expense of keeping a staff of four Victorian Order nurses in this little hospital would be too great, a training-school, consisting of four probationers under a highly-qualified superintendent, is now in progress. There are only twenty beds, but as the cases are varied, and a thoroughly well-planned curriculum enforced during

a term of three years, including three months of district nursing, there is no apprehension of their not being well fitted for district or cottage hospital nursing in the West.

These Victorian Cottage Hospitals will be open to give a training in nursing to the Doukebour, or educated Indian girl, that she may be of special service to her own people.

Innumerable instances might be related of the blessing the Victorian Order nurse has been in the cottage hospital to the homeless sufferer, in the humble room of the crowded tenement-house during her daily visits in the city districts, or in the rural districts, where she may have to drive ten or fifteen miles, and even to canoe up a river in order to reach her patient. In the latter case, the nurse may have to remain a few days if her services are not required in the village and the patient requires special care.

One of the chief difficulties has been an inadequate supply of good nurses. This is pioneer work, and it does not appeal to those who like a city life with its brightness and comfort, though it should be said that even in remote districts the Victorian Order nurse is not by any means forgotten or neglected. No nurse practising her calling, even in most luxurious homes, can receive such honour and hearty gratitude as is accorded to our nurses amid their rude surroundings. In one of the most outlying districts, where every effort to procure suitable board and lodging for the nurse had failed, her committee had a small shack built and furnished for her use.

The Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada needs women in it for country as well as for city districts—women who are capable of performing the highest duty on earth, namely, in helping their fellow-beings back to health, also helping them to lead noble, clean, and wholesome lives, inwardly as well as outwardly.

The Victorian Order, in common with the whole empire, mourns deeply the loss of her after whom it was named; but the Queen's nurses will undoubtedly respond more quickly than ever to the inspiration of her life—as noble Woman and as noble Queen.

Nurses and Total Abstinence.

At a large and influential meeting, under the auspices of the Nurses' Total Abstinence League, held at 19, Grosvenor Place, W., by invitation of the Lady de Rothschild, Professor Sims Woodhead, of Cambridge, delivered an able lecture, in which he asserted that nine-tenths of the disease and a great part of the social evil in this country are caused by the use of alcohol. Professor Woodhead advocated the practice of total abstinence as being right from a physical and moral point of view, and urged his hearers to endeavour, by personal influence and by combination, to change public opinion on the question.

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