

done good service to the cause. Its centre of work is at the Nurses' Home, 35, Hazelwood Road. A lady has charge of it as the Superintendent, with a staff of ten or twelve Hospital Trained Nurses, who are in constant attendance on the sick, and return to the Institution as their headquarters in the intervals of work.

Let it be understood that, to maintain a Nurse in good health and fit for work she must be well fed, sufficiently clothed and comfortably housed; she requires proper rest and plenty of fresh air. To set it at a low average, a Nurse's maintenance will cost £40 to £50 a year. If she is required to spend her time in attendance on the poor, for which no payment is asked or given, the payment must come from the charity of the rich. House rent and taxes for the Home have also to be provided. Thus it is clear that an Institution such as we speak of, without endowments, must depend to a certain extent upon charity, and this was bestowed upon the Northamptonshire Nurses' Home to the extent of £457 19s. in donations and subscriptions in the year 1878, as shown by its first annual report, but this voluntary aid has in the succeeding ten years not exceeded a quarter of the sum above mentioned; and although an excellent and almost self-supporting work has been done by some ten of the Trained Nurses' attendance on paying patients, the difficulty has been very great in maintaining the charitable part of the nursing work—that in fact which originated the scheme, and for which the Institution was at first planted at Northampton.

The benefit of the Charity to the very poor in this town of seventy thousand inhabitants is beyond description. Two District Nurses are employed and maintained by the voluntary funds before mentioned, together with a supply of such things as air pillows, blankets, sheets and other invaluable comforts to invalids, which are kept at the Institution for temporary loan on the payment of a nominal weekly sum; the repairs and supply of which, in consequence of their constant requisition and use, is a considerable item of expense. The visits paid by the two District Nurses in 1887 were 6,181, and in 1888 were 6,907, and these were entirely gratuitous, the salaries of the District Nurses being provided by the voluntary funds of the Institution. There is immense scope for the extension of this valuable work to the populous towns and villages in the neighbourhood, and demands for Nurses have constantly to be refused, owing to the small number that can be housed in the Institution, which is miserably small and ill-suited to its good purpose; but there are no funds wherewith to provide a better house for the Nurses' Home. It is earnestly hoped that some readers of this paper

may feel disposed to aid and endeavour to accomplish this much-desired end. Any contributions will be thankfully received by the Lady Superintendent, 35, Hazelwood Road, Northampton; or by the Hon. Secretary, Miss Thornton, Kingsthorpe Hall, Northampton; or may be paid to the Treasurer of the Nursing Institution Fund, at the Northamptonshire Union Bank, Northampton.

WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

As I remarked in the last issue, I am about eight days behindhand in the doings of my sex in the world of work, having been away on holidays for that time, and I get back to face quite a little heap of letters and periodicals which have accumulated in my absence.

THE first item which attracts my attention is a prospectus of the "Linotype" Company, which has been formed for the purpose of taking over certain patents connected with printing, which promise to prove of considerable value. Please don't think by this that I am advising an investment in its shares; far from that, for the promotion of the affair will not, in my humble opinion, bear too much of that looking into which a thoroughly genuine *bona fide* concern ought to do, and my readers will be wise to keep their money out of it.

BUT I will say this in its favour, and that is, should the patents be taken up and worked satisfactorily, another opening for female labour will have been found, as the machine is such that it ought easily to be manipulated by the dexterous fingers of women. The machine can be seen in active work daily at 52, New Broad Street, E.C., and is well worth a visit. Those who can use the type-writer should be able to direct the Linotype without much difficulty.

THE pamphlet sent with the prospectus, and stated to be printed with the machine, is, take it altogether, a satisfactory production, though I fear that fine book-work could not be entrusted to the ingenious patent, which is—put it whatever way one chooses—a marvel of inventive skill. It surprised Mr. Gladstone and a host of other people very much, which is saying a great deal.

I HAVE lately been reading that the energetic Queen of Roumania, "Carmen Sylva," is taking, or has taken, a well-earned rest at Niewied, and will finish there a comedy of Roumanian middle-class life, which should prove a great success.

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