

two children came down with scarlet, they sent them at once to the hospital. While the department fumigated, the family sat upon the stairs for want of other place to go. Here the nurse found them, and discovered that another little boy had the scarlet rash full out, and temperature of 104. They could not return to their rooms, so the ambulance was called and the patient carried off within half an hour.

### The Queen and Irish Nurses.

Wednesday was a red-letter day for Irish nurses, as the first ceremony performed by the Queen in St. Patrick's Hall, Dublin Castle, was the presentation of badges and certificates to Queen Victoria Jubilee Nurses.

The following nurses were introduced into their Majesties' presence by the Earl of Gosford, Vice-Chamberlain to the Queen, and the gold badges and certificates were handed to Her Majesty on a crimson velvet cushion, and passed on by her to the recipients:—

Miss Lamont, Superintendent of the Jubilee Institution in Ireland, gold badge of the Institute.

QUEEN'S NURSES.—Nurse M. Finn, Nurse A. Keogh, Nurse E. M'Coy, Nurse E. Moore, Nurse E. Tate, Nurse L. Trinham.

CERTIFICATE FOR TWO YEARS' SERVICE.—Nurse E. M'Killen.

Her Majesty also received the three following nurses, who start work immediately in the West of Ireland under Lady Dudley's nursing scheme for Ireland:—Miss Cussack, Nurse Wills, Nurse Farrelly.

The following members of the Council of the Jubilee Institute were also present:—

The Earl of Meath, Mr. O'Brien Furlong, Mr. Teeling, Mrs. Power Lalor; also Miss Howell and Miss Horan, Superintendents of St. Patrick's and St. Lawrence's Training Homes.

Later in the morning, amongst the deputations introduced by the Lord Lieutenant was that of the Matrons and Nurses of Dublin, when a most attractive address was presented to the King and Queen by Mrs. Kildare Treacy, Superintendent City of Dublin Nursing Institution, and Miss Macdonnell, Superintendent Richmond Hospital.

This address is a most artistic and beautiful specimen of illuminating from Celtic designs, the lettering being reproductions from the Book of Kells. The address itself bears the signatures of the Matrons on their own behalf and of some 800 city nurses. The case which contains the address is an exquisite and dainty piece of work, of rich white poplin, embroidered with violets and shamrocks, with the Imperial Crown and Royal cyphers worked in gold embroidery. It is lined with pale heliotrope poplin, and at the corners, right and left, holding the address in place, are an Irish harp and wreath of shamrocks.

### Central Midwives' Board.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at the Privy Council Offices, Whitehall, on July 14th, 1903, Dr. Champneys in the chair.

The Secretary reported that, in accordance with the resolution of the Board at the last meeting, he had taken the offices at No. 6, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall. The rooms were now being re-decorated, and it was hoped that the Board would be able to move in early in August.

Messrs. Barclay and Co., Ltd., 1, Pall Mall East, were appointed bankers to the Board.

Dr. J. R. Kaye, County Medical Officer for the West Riding of Yorkshire, Dr. G. Reid, County Medical Officer for Staffordshire, and Dr. Shirley Murphy, County Medical Officer for London, attended as a deputation from the Conference of County Medical Officers in order to make certain suggestions with reference to the administration of the Act in county areas.

At the conclusion of the discussion the Chairman thanked the members of the deputation for their attendance and for pointing out how certain difficulties in the administration of the Act might be overcome.

### INDIAN MIDWIVES.

The following notes furnished by one of our contributors—Mr. John La Bouchardiere—says the *Indian Medical Record*, on the almost inhuman practices resorted to by the midwives of Southern India, are true of this class of women all over the country; and they will conclusively prove how urgent and imperative a need there is in India for the organisation of training-schools for the teaching of midwifery. Should the scheme Lady Curzon has so philanthropically inaugurated succeed, much indeed will be done to ameliorate the condition of the women of this country; but it must be remembered that it is not so much in the larger towns and more civilised areas that trained midwives will be "God-sends," for in these places doctors are within easy reach, and medical assistance is procurable. For the Victoria Memorial Scholarship scheme to prove an unqualified success, professional skill must be supplied to the actual poor in the outlying hamlets and scattered villages of this large continent.

The midwives of India are drawn from all castes and creeds, except the Brahmins, Kshatriyas, and Vyshtias; the occupation is to a great extent hereditary, and the *dhais* are attached to certain families as well as to villages. Native women are confined lying on their backs or seated, and, as long as cases are natural and uncomplicated, very little interference is called for, and the midwives merely shampoo the abdomen and genitals with oil. Diagnosis by vaginal examination is never resorted to, for the simple reason that the midwives are unable to distinguish between the presentations, &c.; but they insist on most strenuous efforts at bearing down, and, consequently, this is resorted to when it is not only useless but mischievous in its results. The common practice is to seat the woman on the ankles of the midwife, or on a roll of cloth containing hot ashes or sand, and let her pull

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