

We learn from a correspondent that, in spite of the sincere regret with which the nursing staff of the City Hospital at Edinburgh parted from their late Matron, Miss Sandford, they consider themselves very fortunate that she has been succeeded in office by Miss Thomas, a lady so well known in Scottish nursing circles for years of devoted work at the Royal Infirmary. "She's one of our own," says the writer, and we clannish Scots know the genuine satisfaction to be derived from this knowledge.

The annual meeting in connection with the Scottish Branch of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute was held last week at 28, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh. Dr. A. H. F. Barbour presided, and a satisfactory report was presented.

It is of interest to learn that during the year ending October 31st, 1903, thirty-eight nurses were received for special training in district nursing in connection with the Scottish Branch of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses. Of these, thirty-seven completed their six months' training and one failed. In addition, twenty-two candidates entered the Training Home for the required month of probation before receiving hospital training; of these, two failed.

Owing to the inauguration of new arrangements for the entry and training of nurses at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, the twelve vacancies for probationers at the Infirmary, available for the probationers of the Queen's Jubilee Institute, are no longer obtainable.

The Council of the Scottish Branch of the Institute therefore hopes that a larger number of candidates who have already received hospital training will come forward for district training and become Queen's Nurses, and that the work of the Institute may not therefore suffer.

Twenty-three nurses resigned their appointments under the Institute during the year—ten to be married, four for private nursing, three for hospital appointments, three for home duties, and three on account of ill-health.

The appreciation of the working classes for the work of the Queen's Nurses is evidenced by the organised efforts in some places for their support. Thus at Preston Pans every miner makes a weekly contribution, and every fishing-boat an annual contribution. Kinneil Collieries, Bo'ness, entirely support a Queen's Nurse for their own district; Keltly and Cowdenbeath Nurses are supported by the proceeds of the Gothenburg system.

Miss Wade (Superintendent) and Miss Cowper (Assistant Inspector) have made 184 inspections of single nurses and small homes during the year, and

record the general progress and satisfactory condition of the work throughout Scotland.

An instance of the value placed by the medical profession on the work of the nurses is found in the case of a doctor who formerly was able to obtain the services of a Queen's Nurse, but removed to a district which was without one. He spoke regretfully to Miss Wade of the want of the nurse's services, and said that while he had her help he had never lost a patient in confinement. The report was unanimously adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Miss Flora Stevenson. Both speakers appealed for further support for this excellent institution.

The sad deaths are reported from Zurich, in the Cantonal Hospital, of a Sister of Mercy and a young doctor, who committed suicide by drinking prussic acid, and were found lying side by side. It is supposed that the act was due to a love affair.

The post of Lady Superintendent to the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital at Sydney will be shortly advertised in England and the United States of America. We have an "American Queen of India" why not an American Matron in Sydney?—especially as there are numbers of British Matrons at the head of first-rate American hospitals.

Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee, of Washington, who is President of the Order of the Spanish-American War Nurses, has, with her usual energy, been quite on the spot in offering nursing help to Japan if war breaks out.

Japanese ladies in London, represented by Viscountess Hayashi and Lady Arnold, expressed to the American nurses their appreciation of their proffered aid, and now Sir Edwin Arnold has received from the Japanese Legation in London a copy of Dr. McGee's reply sent to His Excellency Takahira Kogoro:—

"My dear Mr. Minister,—It was indeed a very great pleasure to receive your most kind and appreciative note, enclosing the clipping of the *New York Herald* of Monday. I have sent copies of the paper to the officers of my Society, who are scattered from Boston to San Francisco, and copies will also go to members now in Cuba, Mexico, and the Philippine Islands.

"I find it impossible to adequately express how deeply I and my friends of the Spanish-American War Nurses are touched by the cordiality, the courtesy, and the esteem shown us by the Japanese ladies in London through their message to the *Herald*. Our only regret at the apparently successful issue of Japanese diplomacy is that we cannot prove by personal deed the high opinion in which your country is held by all intelligent Americans; and I shall be greatly pleased if you are disposed to convey to your countrywomen, represented by Viscountess Hayashi and Lady Arnold, a return greeting of our sisterly affection.—With sincere regards, I remain, very respectfully yours,

"ANITA NEWCOMB MCGEE, M.D."

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