

Mr. A. W. May, J.P., Chairman of the Association, gave an interesting account of its work. The Association is formed on thoroughly democratic lines, and from the first moment of its initiation has been managed by a committee of freely elected representatives with full control, and those elected representatives are so arranged that the different interests and the different feelings of the separate bodies in the town are harmonised and equalised. Thus, the committee of the Association is composed of five ladies and five gentlemen; five Conservatives and five Liberals, five Churchpeople and five Nonconformists, so that all possibility of jealousy or friction is carefully avoided. Further, in order that no one should exercise any particular influence in the selection of the nurse or nurses, the Association decided to affiliate themselves to the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, so that when they require a nurse they simply send to the Central Association, who send a duly qualified nurse down to them. Associated with the nurses in their work is a band of visiting ladies who visit the sick, take them flowers and fruit, and supply appliances through the Association when these are ordered. In needful cases nourishment is also supplied through the Benevolent Fund; so the Society seems to have worked out a thoroughly practical and helpful scheme.

A very pleasing ceremony took place last week in the recreation-room of the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, when Nurses Brown and Anderson, who were first and second in the recent examination held at the Hospital by Dr. Power, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, were presented with a gold and silver medal respectively (kindly given by Mr. S. P. Pope, who is Chairman of the Nursing Committee) by Mr. John H. Ley, President, who made a few encouraging remarks suitable to the occasion. In the course of his report on the examination, Dr. Power wrote: "I should like to express my sense of the admirable manner in which the nurses have been taught, both in the theory and practice of their art. It would, perhaps, be invidious to select one part more than another, but the sick-room, cookery, and the "made bandages" appear to be especially worthy of commendation. Of the eleven who presented themselves for examination, all are worthy to receive a certificate of competency, and Nurse Brown, as having obtained the highest number of marks in my examination, may be awarded a medal, should the Committee see fit to grant her one." Nurse Anderson also did so well that she was given a silver medal.—Colonel Blake proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Pope for his kindness, and expressed the hope that the example would be perpetuated annually.—Mr. P. J. Kendall (Hon. Treasurer) seconded, and the vote was unanimously accorded.

The Hospital World.

THE GENERAL HOSPITAL, NOTTINGHAM.

The General Hospital at Nottingham occupies one of the most commanding sites in the Hospital World, built as it is upon the summit of a hill, overlooking the undulating park, and beyond it a beautiful and fertile country for many a mile. As our county hospital, we remember it from childhood, and as we began our training in the Children's Hospital at Nottingham, on the opposite side of the road (now spanned by a corridor bridge and absorbed by the General), we have had ample opportunity of watching its transformation from a one-block handsome red brick mansion into a very stately and comprehensive hospital, second to none of its size in equipment and efficiency. Some years ago a fine new block was added to the right of the courtyard, built in the approved oblong shape, and now largely owing to the enthusiasm of a princely benefactor, whose modesty seeks shadow under the title of "A Friend of the Hospital," land and houses have been acquired, and for six years building and remodelling have been the order of the day. The old gateway has disappeared from a side street, and the entrance to the institution is now at the top of the hill. The key-note of the improvements is at once struck as one passes into the entrance hall, which is as beautiful and cheerful a place as can be seen, in place of the one-time grey-flagged corridors. We enter a spacious hall, all rose colour and light tones of paint, with fine appropriate paintings on the walls, and an exquisite inlaid floor of bright mosaics of rose, and green, and many colours. How welcome a place this beautiful hall must be to all who enter in. What a relief to the anxious and loving friends of the sick. Its arrangement and decoration were planned, we feel sure, by a truly sympathetic friend of suffering, who desired the patients and their friends to realise, when entering this beautiful hall, that they had come where their happiness and well-being was of the first importance. To the right and left bright terazza-paved corridors lead to the wards, and to the administrative block in which the Matron's new rooms are situated. What a transformation scene! In the old days we found the Matron counting blankets by gas light in a subterranean dungeon—"her proper place," according to the opinion of that bygone age. Now we enter a lovely room, arched in the centre, decorated in green and white, with polished floor, on which are mellowed Persian rugs and finely-carved oak furniture. A bright fire burns in one of those old-time hobbled and embossed well-polished grates, and the chimney-piece of beautiful old Adam's work, the plaster tracery picked out in white on green, after Wedgewood jasper, was a joy to the soul of the artist.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)