

Nurses of Note.

MISS PAULINE W. PETER.

A joint Conference of the Northern and Southern Associations of Queen's Superintendents was held in London on Wednesday last. The Conference was a large one, the Inspectors of the English counties and the Superintendent of the Irish Branch of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute being present. Miss Rosalind Paget presided. The occasion was specially interesting as it was arranged that the presentation to Miss Pauline W. Peter, late General Superintendent of the Institute, should then be made. The members met for lunch at the Windsor Hotel at one o'clock. The Conference took place from two to five. Several points of interest were discussed, amongst them, "How Inspection may be Made of the Most Use," "How best to utilise Outside Help," and "The Relation of Queen's Nurses to the Local Supervising Authorities under the Midwives' Act."

At five o'clock the Conference adjourned for tea, after which came the chief function for the day, the presentation to Miss Peter, whose portrait, by the kind permission of the Editor of the *Queen's Nurses' Magazine* we have pleasure in publishing on this page.

The presentation took the form of a cheque accompanied by an illuminated address, and was made by the Senior Queen's Nurse, Miss Blower, Superintendent of Stockton-on-Tees District Nursing Association. Miss Peter, on rising to acknowledge the gift, was warmly applauded. In a short and happy speech she expressed her sincere thanks to the donors, and her appreciation of the kindly thought which had inspired it. The presence of so large a number of the Superintendents who had worked under her testified to the regard in which Miss Peter is held.

It is just thirty years ago since Miss Peter entered the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, for training, a training which was to prepare her for the most honourable position which she has lately resigned, as General Superintendent of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, the nurses of which, now numbering

upwards of 1,200, are doing such excellent work in town and country in the homes of the poor in the United Kingdom. In this position Miss Peter's work has been characterised by indefatigable devotion, as well as by much tact in dealing with the numerous persons with whom she was necessarily brought in contact. She had excellent preparation for her onerous post, inasmuch as she was the first Queen's Nurse enrolled, and had experience of the work of the Scottish Branch of the Institute before assuming the reins of control as General Superintendent in London. At the conclusion of her training at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, Miss Peter was appointed Charge Nurse, and afterwards Night Superintendent. She then became Lady Superintendent of the Royal

Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, a position which she held for over eight years. In 1888 she was appointed first Superintendent of the Scottish Branch of the Institute, and in 1890 was appointed General Inspector, a title which was changed to that of General Superintendent at a later date.

It is interesting to note how many Scotchwomen have attained to prominent positions in the nursing world in England. Added to the many sterling qualities which contribute to the excellence of their work they have the tenacity of purpose which so often results in the attainment by its possessor of a position at the head of his or her profession. Amongst such Scotchwomen Miss Peter must be numbered, and her countrywomen have reason for pride that she

should have been placed at the head of that great National Society, potent for good, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses.

Miss Peter's career in connection with the Institute has closed with every mark of esteem from the Queen, its Patron, the Council, the Superintendents who worked under her, and the rank and file of the nurses. We hope that in the period of comparative leisure upon which she is now entering she may be able to devote some time to the interests of the nursing profession at large. It is well known that her sympathies are with the movement for the State Registration of nurses,



Photo by H. McCaul & B. Dickson,

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