

quiet, has long since passed away, and in its stead we have an abundance of bricks and mortar and general up-to-dateness, and many other desirable things—but we have also regrets.

A deputation from Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute of Nurses waited upon the General Purposes Committee of the Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund at the Mansion House on Thursday afternoon in order to bring forward the claims of the Institute to share in the benefits of the Fund, in view of the great work done by the Queen's nurses in the metropolis in relieving pressure at the hospitals, and attending many thousands of the sick poor in their own homes who would otherwise be occupying much-needed room at the hospitals. The instances of Liverpool, Manchester, Brighton, and other large towns were quoted as showing that it was the practice throughout the kingdom for Hospital Sunday and Saturday Funds to allocate money to the Queen's nurses working in those towns.

The deputation consisted of Lord Alwyne Compton, M.P., the Hon. George Goschen, M.P., Sir Dyce Duckworth, Mr. Harold Boulton (hon. treasurer of the Institute), Lady Mary Howard, Lady Victoria Lambton, and Lady Dimsdale. The deputation met with a sympathetic reception, though it was pointed out to them that the present constitution of the Fund did not allow of grants being made to bodies other than actual hospitals and dispensaries in the metropolis; but hopes were held out that modifications of the constitution might be considered in the near future, without varying the existing principles of the Hospital Sunday Fund in making grants within the metropolitan area. After thanking the Committee for their kind reception, the deputation withdrew.

We learn from the Report of the Nightingale School for Nurses that at last the obsolete system of awarding £2 gratuities to the nurses trained at St. Thomas's Hospital has been abolished, and eighteen certificates have been awarded to nurses admitted for training after October 1st, 1900, who have completed in a satisfactory manner three years' training and service in the hospital.

It would be only just if some retrospective step could be taken about the certification of St. Thomas's nurses. Hundreds have fulfilled a three years' term of training and service, and have no documentary proof of the fact. It will be remembered that Miss Isla Stewart caused a mild sensation when giving evidence last year before the Select Committee on Nursing by stating that all the proof she had to show that she had been trained at, and had spent seven years in the service of, St. Thomas's Hospital was a letter from that institution enclosing the prescribed £2 gratuity! Barts,

Guy's, and London nurses have been awarded honourable certificates for a quarter of a century.

The Leeds General Infirmary has for long stood high as a training-school for nurses, and experience proves that with the growth of medical and surgical science three years' training is by no means too long a term in which to gain practical experience in every specialty, including the use of X-rays and the Finzen lamp. The Board of the Leeds Infirmary have now extended the term of training to four years, with the double object of enabling the nurses to avail themselves fully of the increased opportunities of gaining experience, and of definitely securing to the hospital the services of each nurse for a longer period than formerly.

The holidays have been lengthened, and the staff nurses are to receive a salary of £25 in their fourth year.

The teaching comprises lectures on elementary anatomy, physiology, hygiene, medicine, surgery, including ophthalmic and aural surgery, and a course of practical demonstrations on nursing. Examinations are held, and a very high standard of knowledge is required. It is not surprising that the application to enter so well-organised a training-school outnumbers the vacancies.

Speaking broadly, the majority of trained nurses thoroughly distrust the Holt-Ockley system of nursing the poor, as it claims to give "skilled" nursing to the sick, carried out by women of the labouring class with a few months' hospital training. It is interesting in this connection to study a letter which recently appeared in the *Reading Mercury* from an organising secretary of the Affiliated Benefit Nursing Associations (Holt-Ockley system). This lady claims that Cottage Nurses provide a long-felt want, that there is no objection to residence of these nurses in cottages because they are of the same class as the patients, and it is not unreasonable to expect them to live under similar conditions when nursing.

The writer then asks: "Would a cottager like a highly-skilled lady nurse to visit her once or twice a day, and in the intervals perhaps have a kindly neighbour running backwards and forwards to give her and her family help, but not free of charge, during the time she can spare from her own household duties, or sometimes no neighbour available? Would she prefer this to having a reliable, clean, simply-trained cottage nurse, most anxious about her recovery, carrying out the doctor's orders to the letter, a bright fire and a comfortable meal for the husband when he comes in, and the children cared for?"

Can these uneducated, inefficiently-trained women "carry out the doctor's orders to the letter?" We doubt it, unless the orders are of the simplest.

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