

She once had a man under her charge who was dying, and she wrote to the friends who had sent him to say that as he had no prospects of recovery he had better go home; but they begged her to keep him as he had such a wretched home somewhere off the Euston Road. Dr. Walker asked him whether he wished to stay, and he said: "Oh, no; I want to get back and hear the 'buses in the Euston Road." So she finds it is with most of them. We are all children of habit after all.

During a heated discussion at the Southwark Guardians' meeting it was stated that the position of kitchenmaid was recently filled by one servant writing to a friend to come from Hull, the guardians paying the girl's railway fare of 19s. It was also said that under the old system, when the nurses had to appear in person before the board for selection and appointment, the most pleasant-looking ones invariably obtained the appointment, fitness for the post never being taken into consideration. These little pleasantries are inevitable when men dabble in domestic matters.

At the recent annual meeting of the Victoria Nursing Association, held at Kirkcaldy, Lady Helen Munro Ferguson presided, and in submitting the annual report she referred to the good work which was being performed by the nurses not only in nursing the patients, but in conveying useful information as to hygiene, ventilation, management of infants, &c., to the homes which they visited, so that in addition to those who benefited by their skilled attendance in illness, an even greater number would benefit during the whole of their lives by the teaching and preaching of the Queen's Nurses. She said there were innumerable young people at the age of twenty without teeth and wearing spectacles, who did not even seem to realise that it was regrettable, and might have been prevented. During the past year the two nurses had had 391 patients on the books, they had paid 6,390 visits, and assisted at fourteen operations. Of the 391 cases, 297 were convalescent, forty-seven died, twenty-two were removed to hospital, and twenty-five were still on the books.

Speaking in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, when the offertories were in aid of the funds of St. Patrick's Nurses' Home, the Bishop of Meath said it was a pleasing thought that the Cathedral was linked in name with such a noble institution as St. Patrick's Nurses' Home for Supplying Trained Nurses for the Sick Poor. The amount of work accomplished by the regular staff almost passed belief. He cer-

tainly was astonished at the record. The staff of the institution consisted of the district superintendent and six nurses, with four or five probationers, so that in all barely a dozen sisters had to meet the calls that came from an area very far exceeding the ancient limits of Dublin.

Lady Londonderry attended a meeting of the Newtonards Nursing Society, held in the Town Hall last week, and we are glad to observe that, after congratulating the Committee on the good work accomplished, she alluded to the necessity for the organisation of the nursing profession. Lady Londonderry said:—"Until sixty years ago the subject of sick nursing hardly interested the people of this country. The nursing profession was in no sense organised, and the care of the sick was left to any inefficient persons who earned their livelihood in this way, but without any training or proper aptitude for it. Miss Nightingale during the Crimean War did much to alter this, and since her time there had been a steady improvement in bringing the nursing profession up to a proper status. Even now the nursing profession was not as highly organised as it should be, but this could easily be carried out by the registration of nurses who have been properly trained. It would simplify the matter if some standard of training and character for nurses could be arrived at, thus preventing unqualified and untrained nurses from competing with highly trained nurses, who had devoted three or four years to learning their profession." An expression of opinion which met with warm applause.

Miss Fleming, the Queen's Nurse, came in for a just share of praise. It was reported of her that she "continued to do her work with enthusiasm, care, and sympathy, and had earned the gratitude of her patients, the hearty approval of the doctors, and the highest commendation from the Lady Superintendent. Miss Brown and Miss Lamont, from the Queen Victoria Jubilee Nursing Society, had inspected her work twice during the year, and had reported on it most favourably."

The election of Lady Hermione Blackwood as President of the Ulster Branch of the Irish Nurses' Association is an appointment which will give general satisfaction. Lady Hermione has been largely instrumental in bringing about the formation of the Branch and will take a keen interest in its progress and welfare. Moreover, she is well informed as to the present conditions of nursing in various parts of the world, and the knowledge she will be able to place at its disposal should be most valuable to the new organisation.

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