

up the question of a county nursing association. A private meeting has been held at Alderley Park, when a resolution was passed in favour of the formation of a society. Colonel Dixon, Chairman of the County Council, and Dr. Vacher, the County Medical Officer, are associated with the movement. The County Council will be asked to grant scholarships and grants. We do hope the nurses are to be provided with a thorough training.

Miss Carswell, the Superintendent Nurse at the Bishop Stortford Workhouse, who is leaving to take up a similar appointment at Wirrall, has been presented by the Clerk and Indoor Officers with a travelling bag, bearing a suitable inscription. The presentation took place in the presence of the donors in the Board Room of the Workhouse.

The Aston guardians have extended the period of trial for probationer nurses from one month to three. From the guardians' point of view it is felt that one month is too short a period in which to judge of the suitability of a probationer for the nursing profession, and, regarded from the nurses' standpoint, it is stated that they do not appear to be able to realise all the duties which will devolve upon them. Capacity to grasp quickly new situations varies greatly with different individuals, but for the average probationer the longer period is certainly the more desirable.

The Mayor of Bedford presided last week at the tenth annual meeting of the Bedford District Nursing Association. The Association, which is affiliated to the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, maintains a staff of three nurses, who have paid during the year 8,229 visits to the sick.

It is so common for district nursing associations to have a balance-sheet on the wrong side, that we are pleased to observe that this Association closes the year with a balance in hand. It has also started a reserve fund, which at present amounts to £56 7s. 6d. The nurses have received great assistance for their patients from the St. John Ambulance Nursing Division, which has supplied 197 pints of soup, 185 dinners from joints, poultry, or game, 67 dinners from fish, 225 puddings and jellies, and 87 pints of milk, as well as Bovril, Benger's Food, eggs, &c. When one remembers how habitually underfed many of the poor are, and how much diet has to do with a good recovery in all cases of illness, the value of the work organised so ably by Mrs. Alfred Paine,

the Hon. Superintendent, is evident. Many other kind gifts have also been received for the home and the sick. The people of Bedford seem to take a real interest in their district nursing association.

At the annual meeting of Dumfries branch of the Jubilee Institute of Nurses, Mrs. Scott Elliot, of Newton, submitted her annual report as secretary, which showed that the number of patients visited by the two nurses during the year had been 275, the number of visits paid being 5,939, and the nurses had been on duty for 3,851½ hours. Gratification was expressed that those among whom the nurses labour fully appreciate their services, and contribute to the support of the Association.

Several societies of nurses, who profess an ardent desire for the uplifting of their profession, and who in the abstract are registrationists, make the excuse for taking no part in the hard work necessary to obtain a reform by which they hope to benefit, by saying, "We do not wish to be political," as if politics were some bold bad thing it is "unladylike" to touch! The truth is many women are constitutionally averse to strife, and as no reform can be won without it, it results in their deluding themselves with the belief that their natural refinement will not permit them to take a firm stand in public, thus leaving the more courageous of their colleagues "to do the dirty work."

But high politics is not dirty work if animated with a righteous desire for the common good—politics, which is nothing more nor less than the *science of government*, is the finest and most useful work in which intelligent citizens can be engaged, and we are forcibly reminded of this truth in the fine leading article on Women's Suffrage which appeared in last Saturday's *Tribune*. The man who wrote it is the type of man we want in political journalism, and we quote the words with which it concludes for the benefit of the "modest violets" in our ranks, so that they may realise how good a thing is politics when animated by the lofty sense of justice which inspires the article to which we allude.

After claiming the right of women to Parliamentary suffrage, the writer concludes:—

"But no less important than the mere business of passing laws is the mental work that goes to the making of them. Politics are a moral and an intellectual process in the minds of citizens, as well as a series of changes in the outward circumstances of the governed. It is only by exercising the right to vote

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