

on board the "Port Kingston," which virtually became a floating hospital. For 16 hours without a break, Dr. Arthur Evans, of Liverpool, the ship's surgeon, was occupied in dealing with these cases, and performed no fewer than 100 operations on the more seriously injured. Then when the ship was full the sufferers were brought alongside in lighters, and their injuries were attended to in these smaller craft. Members of the crew with a knowledge of "first aid" gave valuable help, but the "Port Kingston" was ringing with the praises of Nurse Cross, of the Middlesex Hospital, who was positively untiring in her solicitation for the injured. She shares with Lady Swettenham the honour of being the heroine of the earthquake. But she was very loath to talk of her work.

When the disaster occurred she was at the Constant Stream Hotel, outside the town. She had gone to Jamaica with a lady patient who was intending to spend a few months there. The day was hot, so most of the lady members of the party were resting through the oppressive hours of the afternoon. This accounts for so few of them being actually in the place when Kingston was wrecked. Lying in a top room of the hotel, she felt the earthquake, saw the furniture move about, and a large fissure open in the wall of the room. Hearing how disastrous the visitation had been in Kingston, she made her way to the ship, being unable on account of the wreckage to pass through the worst parts of the devastated town, and found that it was a hospital. Of the rest she will say nothing—the passengers on the "Port Kingston" have appreciated her services as "the right-hand man" of Dr. Evans, and have passed her a vote of their thanks for what she did.

Under the will of Mr. David Mainland, his nurse, Miss Annie Duffy, receives a legacy of £1,000 and an annuity of £150.

The Nurse's Needlework Guild, which is a very useful Society for assisting needy hospital patients by supplying them with warm and useful clothing, distributed last year nearly 5,000 useful garments to various London hospitals. Membership is a very simple matter and only entails on members the duty of supplying one garment annually and a yearly subscription of sixpence, associates, viz, ladies other than nurses, sending two garments and one shilling. The Hon. Secretary is Miss Theobald, The Limes, Welwyn, Herts.

There was a lengthy discussion at the recent meeting of the Liverpool Select Vestry on the alleged friction at the Highfield Infirmary, Knotty Ash, which has accommodation for 300 patients, some of whom are old and infirm and others, formerly accommodated at Brownlow Hill Infirmary, who are mentally deficient. A Matron, Miss M. Brunton, is in charge, the medical officer being Dr. D. A. Hastings. It is alleged that the medical officer is thus in a subordinate position to the Matron, but surely while the latter is fully responsible for the domestic arrangements and the efficiency of the nursing department, the doctor is absolute as regards the treatment of the sick.

It is alleged from the nurses' standpoint, that Dr. Hastings does not assist them in maintaining discipline in the wards. On the other hand it is stated that the nurses desired, against the doctor's advice, to deprive three old and ailing men of luxuries, and to reduce their diet, as a disciplinary measure. A cold bath was also recommended in one instance. It is also alleged that some of the nurses have been gossiping outside the Infirmary as to its management, and it is proposed to confront them with the persons with whom they have been gossiping at the next meeting of the Highfield Committee, when the whole circumstances of the administration of the Infirmary will be discussed.

The quarterly report of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses (Scottish Branch) states that there are at present 286 Queen's Nurses in Scotland working under 181 affiliated associations. The Council are directly responsible for 9 Queen's nurses and 34 probationers, of whom 15 are training in various hospitals and 19 in the Scottish District Training Home. During the three months 7 nurses entered the Home for training in district nursing, 7 completed training, and were engaged by local committees. Three new branches were formed at Kingskettle, Blackwood, and Glenboig, and were affiliated to the Institute. During the three months 1,547 cases were nursed in Edinburgh from the Training Home at 29, Castle Terrace, and 25,345 nursing visits were paid. 46 cases remain on the books. The Council received donations of £500, £100, and two of £50 towards a pension fund for Queen's nurses, and they had also intimation of a legacy of £250 for the general funds.

During the year 1906 the Victorian Order of Nurses in Toronto cared for 461 patients.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)