

the Lady Superintendent of the City of Dublin Hospital, and a sympathetic and cultivated Irishwoman she was, under whose genial rule patients and nurses were as happy as possible, though the small number of nurses and probationers considered necessary at that time obliged both to work very hard indeed, and with much less off duty time than is customary now; but those are very far away days, the Dark Ages they might be termed, in the evolution of the trained nurse of to-day.

In about the year 1890, the City of Dublin Nursing Institution had the misfortune to lose, after a few days' illness, of acute pneumonia, its first and most able Lady Manager, Miss FitzGerald, the eldest daughter of the Right Rev. William FitzGerald, Lord Bishop of Killybegs, who had been trained at the City of Dublin Hospital, and subsequently at the London Hospital, from whence she returned to take up the management of the Institution. She was one of the first Irish ladies who went through a thorough hospital training, and her leading example gave the necessary encouragement to others who desired to become skilled in hospital nursing at that time. Upon the death of Miss FitzGerald, Mrs. Kildare Treacy was appointed by the Directors of the Institution in her stead.

It may interest our readers to hear that Mrs. Treacy presides over a self-supporting institution, with a nursing staff of about 120; that probationers are supplied for the nursing of Mercer's Hospital, Dublin; a large number are always in training at Crumpsall Infirmary, Manchester, and at the City Hospitals, Birmingham; while the private nurses are despatched all over England, Scotland, and Ireland as required, to sundry Continental resorts, and not infrequently to places very much further afield, as Cairo and Alexandria. We have heard with interest of a sojourn made by two members of Mrs. Treacy's staff at Sofia, Bulgaria, quite recently, where they were received with much kindness, and where expeditions were made for their pleasure to several notable places, by their professional Sisters of the Croix Rouge and other Hospitals.

It will readily be remembered that a large number of the Nurses of the Institution offered their services to, and were accepted by, the Army Nursing Reserve Committee in London, on the outbreak of the war in South Africa, where their nursing of the sick and wounded has been highly valued, and where several of them still remain with Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

In addition to the care and management of the nurses, Mrs. Treacy has charge of the

important secretarial work of the Institution, so that she must needs be a busy woman, and to this there has just now been added the furtherance of the interests of the Irish Nurses' Association, of which, as we have said, she has become the President, but with the large amount of sympathy and combination which appear to prevail amongst Irish Matrons and nurses, we feel sure that Mrs. Treacy will meet with a ready response from the Executive and members of the Association, over which she presides.

Of the personality of Mrs. Treacy much might be written. Those who know her realise that her gentle and charming manner is combined with great force of character; that in all she does there is a determined purpose; and that with boundless energy she carries out work to which she devotes her great talents.

Just at this particular time we sincerely congratulate the Irish Nurses' Association upon their selection of a President—as we feel sure Mrs. Kildare Treacy will represent this powerful Association at the Paris Conference, in which she is to take part, with much becoming dignity and success.

Royal British Nurses Association

It has taken the R.B.N.A. twenty years to realise that to institute an examination and grant a Diploma in nursing would not cause a revolution, but sometimes one realises a thing too late.

On the 12th April, "by order" of the President, a Special General Meeting will be held at the Rooms of the Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, at 3 p.m.

"To consider recommendations with reference to the grant of a Diploma in Nursing by the Corporation."

These recommendations were presented at a Special Meeting of the General Council, held on Wednesday, with Dr. Bezly Thorne in the chair. Dr. Biernacki protested strongly against examinations being held in the nursing of Infectious Diseases, and diplomas being given to persons who had not received practical training in the nursing of fever cases, but his protest was ignored.

The recommendation was then agreed to that the Executive Committee should be empowered to confer Honorary Degrees in Nursing on Distinguished Persons, and the names of two foreign Royalties were mentioned in this connection. It was not determined whether male Persons of august status were to share this honour!

The meeting on the 12th inst. should prove quite up to R.B.N.A. form.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)