

and all credit is due to her for the present efficient work of the Association."

THE CHIEF LADY SUPERINTENDENT.

Mrs. Davies, in her report to the President and members of the Central Committee, describes the progress of the Association as highly satisfactory and encouraging from every point of view. Remarkable has been the rapidity and cordiality with which the Provinces have inclined to the new scheme, and at the close of 1907 five different branches are working energetically, whereas, at the beginning of the year, two centres alone represented the then area of operations.

Rules and Regulations calculated to maintain efficiency and discipline have been framed, of which time alone will fully prove the value, since "this is essentially an age when a strict observance of method, order, and discipline alone can bring about success." In the regulations special attention is directed to the particular care required as regards disinfection and the period of quarantine. An annual report is furnished by the branches to the Central Committee as to the capabilities of the Nursing Sisters, and at the end of five years, if they are desirous of re-engaging for a second term of service, they will be required to go through a course of three months' training in a hospital, at home or in India, approved by the Central Committee, and, at the termination of that period, to produce a certificate of efficiency. During the past year, the Lady Superintendent and twenty nursing Sisters have joined the Association from home, and nine have been selected in India, four of whom have been trained in the country, one in Australia, and five in England.

The Punjab Branch has had the misfortune to lose a Sister during the year from ptomaine poisoning. She had proved herself an excellent nurse, and the Association experienced a serious loss by her death.

Mrs. Lewis, who has had a wide experience of nursing in India, has been appointed Lady Superintendent of the above branch. The United Provinces Branch is established at Naini Tal, with a Lady Superintendent and nine nurses, all of whom have proved most satisfactory; one—Sister Smith—contracted enteric fever, and her life was for many weeks despaired of, but she is now able to resume her duties.

After dealing with other centres, Mrs. Davies concludes her report by pointing out that practically within a year of initiation of the nursing scheme all the Provinces originally suggested will have their centres, and, even at this early stage, a future pregnant with wide possibilities presents itself for the Association.

The First Jubilee of the German Nurses' Association.

A happy crowd filled the large rooms of our office on the 11th of January, when the first *Lustrum* of our work was finished. It was the first time we had courage enough to enjoy a real festival of our own. From all parts of Germany came boxes of home-baked cakes, fruit, and sweetmeats; some of our Sisters sent money, with which we bought wine for a real German beverage, called "Bishop," consisting of red wine, sugar, lemons, and water, very nice and harmless. Letters, telegrams, cards, came pouring in, some with nice little verses. We wanted to keep our Christmas tree, but it would have taken too much room, but so many flowers were sent to us, that roses and violets, lilac and azaleas made a spring bower of our busy rooms. Only a few nurses from different towns came in the afternoon, but in the evening they came flocking in from all parts of the city. At least 180 or 200 were with us that day, and no one will ever forget the happy hours which bound heart and heart together. Two of our foreign members, one of *Nosokomos*, who is taking a course of massage, and an English Queen's nurse, who is working in the celebrated Rudolf-Virchow Hospital, were with us, and enjoyed the day greatly. In the afternoon I showed the nurses through every room in our office, told them of the details of our work, made them look into every shelf and cupboard, and all the books and registers, so these few will understand much better what our work means and what they can do to help or to hinder it. In the evening, we had a few beautiful songs by a friend of one of our Sisters, then I told them of the beginning of our work, and afterwards our dear friend, Frau Praetorius—you know she is English, and her husband was in Parliament, and my best and truest help in the beginning of our Association—made a beautiful little speech, to tell the Sisters what has been done for them through a few people giving their whole hearts for them, and setting their monuments not in stone but in the hearts of the nurses. We thought of all our co-workers near and far, our dear friends in all parts of the world, and hearty cheers were given, and late was the hour when the last few parted. "Every year again," was the wish of all, and I hope we are far enough on our thorny road to take one day of pleasure in the year. Hard work it has been, and many wearing and trying days we had. I think a few figures will show you best.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)