

sisted of a superintendent, four staff nurses, and eight probationers. It was sometimes thought that these probationers were gaining their experience by being trained on the poor, but this was not the case. Each probationer had had at least three years' hospital training, and very often more, and that a nurse was called a probationer only implied that her vocation as a Queen's nurse was being tested. They were not educating nurses at the expense of the poor.

The adoption of the report, which recorded the thanks of the committee to their valued Superintendent, Miss Böge, for her devoted services, and their satisfaction with the way in which the nursing staff carry out their responsible duties, was moved by Sir Dyce Duckworth, whose views on the "swinish way" in which many of the poor live, and on the "grumbling and growling and discontent heard of on all hands under the ugly name of what is called socialism" could scarcely have been congenial to a Bethnal Green audience. It was seconded by Mr. Harold Boulton, M.V.O., who read an extract from a letter addressed by Miss Nightingale to *The Times* thirty years ago, in which she spoke of district nursing as "this system which twenty years ago was a paradox, but which twenty years hence will be a commonplace." Amongst the various duties undertaken by Queen's Nurses in the country, he mentioned School Nursing. At one time the Queen's Nurses undertook this in London also, but now the L.C.C. had instituted a system of their own. He hoped the Queen's Nurses would get it back again. Nurses who did school nursing only were so specialised they were apt to get a bit stale and out of touch with general nursing. The school work was, he thought, best done by Queen's nurses.

District Nurses were many-sided people; they developed a sixth sense—the sanitary sense; they had to know when a smell was good and when it was bad. Then they must know something of invalid cooking, of infant feeding, of the preventives to race deterioration; they must be expert bicyclists, have plenty of commonsense, and if a doctor required "a good bedside manner," a nurse needed it very much more. It was good that nurses should sometimes be praised in public, for they led very hard lives. The Home of the Shoreditch and Bethnal Green Association was one of the best models of the kind. It was recognised all over London as one of the very best.

Miss James said that it was not necessary in the East End of London to explain the value of good nurses; all knew and appreciated their devoted work. She pleaded eloquently and sympathetically for increased support, and said that everyone knew how magnificently the East End supports its charities. A collection was then made, and the Mayor promised, if it reached £5, to add another £5. It proved to be £4 6s., but a lady in the audience promptly made up the 14s. required to gain the Mayor's donation.

Sir W. Hart Dyke will preside, and Viscount Goschen, the Bishop of Rochester, and others will speak, at the annual public meeting of the Kent County Nursing Association, at the Whitehall Rooms, Hôtel Métropole, at three o'clock, on March 25.

At the thirty-sixth annual meeting of the Birmingham District Nursing Society, held at the Council House on Friday in last week, at which the Lord Mayor, Alderman H. J. Sayer, presided, the report presented stated that it was hoped the new home would be opened in the course of the summer. The committee had been engaged in lengthy correspondence with the Queen Victoria Institute for Nurses with reference to the theoretical training of the junior members of the staff, in order to qualify as Queen's nurses. Although the committee did not find it practicable to comply with all the details of the Institute's requirements, they had adopted the principles embodied in the Institute's circular, and the Newhall Street Home had been recognised as a training centre. Two probationers from London were in residence upon terms which the committee considered satisfactory.

The Lord Mayor of Birmingham, who also presided at the Annual Meeting of the Birmingham and Midland Counties' Institution for Trained Nurses, at 12, The Crescent, Edgbaston, last week, referring to the transference by the Committee of £100 to the District Nursing Society, in addition to an Annual Subscription of £170, said it was "gratifying to note that they were able, out of their savings, to assist a kindred institution which worked amongst the poor and required financial assistance." Are we to understand that this institution is assisted out of the earnings of private nurses? Surely the wealthy citizens of Birmingham are able to support their own charities without a subsidy from the earnings of working women.

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