

Most Rev. R. Browne, Bishop of Cloyne, announced that he has introduced to Queenstown a community of Sisters of the Bon Secours Order with the object of providing nursing care for the sick poor in their own homes. The Bishop has stated that the nuns who are coming to Queenstown are highly experienced and trained nurses, and the two Sisters for the nursing of the poor place themselves first of all at the call of the doctors of the town, Catholic and non-Catholic, to go where they send them into the houses of the poor, and will act in obedience and entire submission to the doctor's orders. They will be at the service of all who want them, Catholic and non-Catholic, and the Bishop announced that he would go bail for them that they will not use their position to disturb or interfere with the religious convictions of those who are not members of the Roman Catholic faith. Besides the two Sisters who are to be available for the very poor four others are also to be introduced for the sick who do not belong to this category, and the Bishop commends them to "gentle and simple, to rich and poor, to all the people."

We are sure that the Sisters will work devotedly, but a great drawback to nursing by some religious orders is that they are not allowed to do any midwifery or gynaecological work, or to attend to many male patients. There is no office for the relief of the sick and suffering that a pure-minded woman should hesitate to undertake, or is the worse for undertaking; but, if any necessary nursing duties are considered by some persons to have an undesirable influence on character, surely they are most fitly performed by religious Sisters, who find daily at the altar "the source of their inspiration, the chief motive and energising power to sustain them in working for Christ in the care and nursing of His poor." It is extraordinary that religious Sisters should be willing to depute to others duties which they, with all their religious privileges, feel that they dare not discharge.

A FIRST AID WARD.

Amongst the many interesting and novel features which attracted considerable attention when the public crowded to see the great emporium of Messrs. Selfridge and Co., in Oxford Street, W., on Monday last, was the first aid ward, with a nurse in attendance, for the reception of possible accident cases. It looked very dainty and inviting with white bed, furniture, and walls, and a glass cupboard contained such requisites as a tourniquet, swabs, and dressings.

Irish Nurses' Association.

ANNUAL MEETING OF ULSTER BRANCH, BELFAST.

On Friday, 5th March, the annual meeting of the Ulster Branch of the Irish Nurses' Association, was held in the Association club-room, Belfast. In spite of a snowstorm there was a fair attendance. The Hon. Sec., Miss Workman, read the annual report and financial statement. The report stated that during the year five lectures had been given in the Club by eminent medical men. An address on the Official Directory of Nurses' Bill and a debate on the State Registration of Nurses had also been given at the Club, and a special meeting had been called at which the provisions of the Registration Bill, as it passed through the House of Lords, had been explained to the members by the President. The Executive Committee met nine times. The Amusements Committee, which had been formed this year, met five times. Miss Campbell, a member of the latter Committee, read the report, and stated that the members of the Committee had organised four expeditions into the country and five social evenings at the Club. The latter had been very successful, music and dancing being a great feature at these evening entertainments. The balance-sheet was read, and Miss Workman stated that the Club had £27 in hand.

The President, Lady H. Blackwood, in commenting on the report, said that the Treasurer was to be congratulated on the satisfactory financial state of the Club's affairs, but she regretted to have to state that no less than 40 members had failed to send in their subscriptions for the year, otherwise the balance would have been larger than it was. The President also remarked that the debate on State Registration of Nurses had been poorly attended, showing that even yet nurses did not realise what an important question it was, and how vitally the whole nursing profession would be affected by the Bill. She also spoke of the Territorial Nursing Service and of the Poor Law Commissioners' Report.

Miss Mahaffy, in an eloquent speech, moved a vote of thanks to all who had managed the affairs of the Club, and to the doctors who had so kindly given lectures.

The Dowager Marchioness of Dufferin, who had most kindly consented to give an address on "Medical Women in India," then took the chair, and gave a most interesting and instructive account of the treatment Indian women received before medical aid was brought to them.

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