

A most successful ball was held at the Aberdeen Hall of the Gresham Hotel, Dublin, to further the scheme for providing a district nurse for the Caherdaniel district, County Kerry. We hope a district nurse may soon be established in this locality, where the Hon. Albinia Brodrick is working so hard to provide a hospital for the sick folk.

It is interesting just now when nurses are delving into history to find out something about the costumes worn by notable nurses of long ago, to learn that when the Archduchess Elizabeth Mary of Austria made her *début* at the Viennese Court she did so as an Abbess. Until her marriage with Prince Otto zu Windischgratz, the Crown Prince Rudolph's daughter was, we learn from a contemporary, Abbess of the Order of St. Theresa, and wore the velvet and ermine robes of her office at all State functions. With these she carried a pastoral staff, studded with jewels, presented to the Order by St. Wenceslaus, King of Bohemia, six hundred years ago. A mitre of peculiar shape, perched on the curly head of the seventeen year old Archduchess gave a piquant finish to her appearance, when she made her first public curtsey to her grandfather.

The question of an eight hours' day for nurses continues to be much discussed in hospital and nursing circles in New South Wales. The nurses, as a rule, are not in favour of it, but, according to the *Sydney Evening Herald*, would plump for one day off a week, and a small increase of salary.

Miss Creal, Matron of the Sydney Hospital, informed our contemporary that the Matrons are of opinion that to have three shifts of eight hours each would be impracticable; that the nurses do not want eight hours, and that so many changes would be detrimental to the patients, especially to the serious cases. At the same time Miss Creal thinks the nurses' hours should be shortened by giving them one clear day off duty each week.

Miss Garran, Australasian Trained Nurses' Association, points out the difficulty of precisely regulating the hours of those in attendance on sick people. A nurse could not leave off just because she felt tired, and allow the patient to die, and often it is not convenient for another nurse to take on a case at a critical stage.

Miss Moss, of the Children's Hospital, Sydney, is of opinion that to enforce an eight hours' day in hospitals would necessitate the extension of the term of training from three to five years.

Miss Ida K. Bradshaw, writing in the *Canadian Nurse* on Social Service Work in the Winnipeg General Hospital, says:—

"About a month ago the directors of the hospital being anxious that the institution should attain to the fullest possible measure of usefulness, decided to establish a social service department.

Though comparatively new in Canada, social service work in hospitals is past the experimental stage, having been permanently established in over thirty of the best hospitals in the United States. The work has been briefly, and very appropriately, summed up as hospital extension work. Its function is to meet those needs of the patients which the hospital proper does not provide for. Needless to say, these needs are many and varied, ranging from the writing of a letter to the securing of the means of support for wife and family while the breadwinner is disabled.

"As the department is to serve as a connecting link between the needy individual and the helpful society or organisation, a considerable portion of the first week's was spent in becoming acquainted with the agents of the various charitable institutions and organisations of the city; in explaining to them the nature of the work which the hospital is undertaking, and in studying the nature and scope of the work done by each, with a view to future co-operation.

"Though the department is not yet a month old, between forty and fifty patients have received help from it. The help has consisted of letter writing, securing admission to the Convalescent Home, taking out-of-town patients to the depot, securing material assistance through charitable organisations, help in obtaining employment, etc. In many cases, discharged patients are visited in their homes and an effort made to secure hygienic home conditions."

There is a small emergency fund to be used in cases in which delay is impossible.

A HISTORY OF NURSING.

As our readers already know, Sister Agnes Karll, R.N., has been engaged for some time past translating into German that important work "A History of Nursing," by Miss L. L. Dock and Miss M. A. Nutting, of which G. P. Putnam's Sons have published the first two volumes.

It is the expectation of the publishers to have the third volume ready in time for the International Congress of Nurses in June, 1912. This volume will probably complete the work.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)