

of the Cathedral, Trinity College, etc., and finished an arduous week by giving the members of the Irish Nurses' Association a delightful address on "Work in America." Everyone was sorry when her visit came to an end, and hopes she will soon return to Ireland.

IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The first lecture of the Session was given by Miss Damer, of New York, on "Work in America." Mrs. Kildare-Treacy presided, and the following are a few extracts from Miss Damer's address:—

The first training school started in America was in connection with the Bellevue Hospital in New York City in 1873. The first Superintendent was Sister Helen, an English nurse who was visiting New York, and offered her services. She remained for one year to establish the school, and was succeeded by a Miss Agnes Brennan, a young Irishwoman, who was trained in the school. It was she who brought the school up to a good standard, and only retired about 8 years ago.

At first the nursing was done by convict women, commonly called the "Ten days women," who were committed to Blackwells Island for imprisonment. Needless to say nursing was held in great disrepute by the general public, the nurses were called the "Slaughter House Nurses," as it was said they always gave their patients a dose from a black bottle which finished them off. Gradually this state of affairs was changed. The nurses at Bellevue now have a three years' training, and, as State Registration is in force in New York State, must come up to the requirements of the Department of Education, which grants the Diploma for the nurses who pass the Central Examination.

In some hospitals there is a post-graduate Course of 3, 6 or 9 months for nurses wishing to acquaint themselves with new or special methods of nursing.

Miss Damer also spoke of District Nursing, Private and Settlement Work, Nurses' Leagues or Alumnæ, Private Hospitals, etc., etc. A Training School was started in connection with Bellevue Hospital, for Male Nurses, by Mr. Mills (the father of Mrs. Whitelaw Reid), but after some years' trial it has proved a failure, and is about to be closed.

A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded Miss Damer at the close of her address.

Miss Carson Rae, secretary of the Irish Nurses' Association, came over from Ireland on Monday, as one of a Deputation of Women to meet Irish Members of Parliament *re* amendments to the National Insurance Bill.

THE UNIVERSAL COOKERY AND FOOD EXHIBITION.

THE NURSES' SECTION,

There was a goodly show of trays for invalids in the Section of the Cookery Exhibition open only to nurses.

The regulation governing the competition is that it is open only to certificated nurses, but this seems to be a somewhat unfortunate definition as many of the competitors were probationers, and a probationer carried off the gold medal, so that it would be better to enlarge the scope of the competition to certificated nurses and nurses in training.

The competing nurses may be classified as follows:—Charing Cross Hospital, 10; Bethnal Green Infirmary, 15; St. Thomas' Hospital, 5; Guy's Hospital, 11; Westminster Hospital, 3; St. Bartholomew's Hospital, 1; Unattached, 1.

The awards were as follows:—

Gold Medal.—Probationer Nurse M. R. Hegge, Bethnal Green Infirmary. Miss Hegge's exhibit was arranged on a green tray with elaborate tray cloth, the decoration consisting of brown leaves. The dishes shown were beef tea, stewed sweetbread and sauce, baked custard, and orange flip.

Silver Medals.—Miss O. N. Bendy, who selected as her exhibit a diet for a diabetic patient, consisting of beef tea, boiled chicken, vegetables, custard and lemonade tastefully arranged, Miss Bailey (Dr. Morris' Prize) and Miss Graham (Charing Cross Hospital), Miss E. M. Richens, Miss L. M. Green (Bethnal Green Infirmary), Miss A. Glendinning and Miss B. Bullock (St. Thomas' Hospital), Miss Florence Jagger, Miss Elise Schlagintweit, Miss H. M. Marshall (Messrs. J. & J. Colman's Prize) and Miss Grant (Dr. Dutton's Prize) (Guy's Hospital), Miss A. E. Burley (Westminster Hospital).

Bronze Medals.—Miss King, Miss Wells, Miss Violet Spedding and Miss T. Roho (Charing Cross Hospital), Miss J. A. Morgan, Miss H. M. Roche, Miss M. Wood, Miss L. J. Carpenter (Bethnal Green Infirmary), Miss L. G. King (St. Thomas' Hospital).

Certificates.—Miss Spicer (Charing Cross Hospital), Miss C. Munro (Bethnal Green Infirmary), Miss M. E. Foxon (Guy's Hospital).

The healthy rivalry stimulated by the exhibition of the Cookery and Food Association has certainly resulted in a marked improvement in the instruction of probationers in invalid cooking. Since the first competition, not only the increase in the number of exhibits in this section, but also in the quality, is very noticeable, and the arrangement of the trays and selection of the *menus*, in many instances, show great taste and care.

In the Section of Household and Artizan Cookery awards gained by trained nurses were as follows:—

Fish Preparations.—Second prize, Miss Mason (St. Bartholomew's Hospital).

Savoury Dishes.—First prize, Miss Lord (Matron, Banstead Asylum). Second prize, Miss Sutton (St. Bartholomew's Hospital).

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