

## QUEEN VICTORIA'S JUBILEE INSTITUTE. SCOTTISH BRANCH.

The Annual Meeting of the Scottish Branch of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses was held in the City Chambers, Edinburgh, on December 12th, the Lord Provost presiding, in the unavoidable absence of H.R.H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, who is President of the Scottish Branch.

In the course of his speech in moving the adoption of the Report, the Lord Provost said that questions were being asked what effect the National Insurance Bill would have upon such an Institute as this. The work of the Institute would still be required in its full extent, notwithstanding the provisions of this Bill now going through Parliament. As, however, some of the patients treated by the Queen's Nurses might be insured persons under the Bill, there was provision under Section 20 of the Bill for contributions being made by the Friendly Societies and local Health Committees towards Hospitals and other charitable institutions, or for the support of District Nurses, and to appoint Nurses to visit and nurse insured persons. That clause had gone through without any material alteration, and he supposed they might look forward to it becoming part and parcel of the Bill. Under this head it would, he did not doubt, be found practicable and desirable for the various Committees to make arrangements with the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses for the services of their Nurses, and, of course, to make appropriate payments for the purpose. He ventured to think that all over the country there would be a very largely increased demand for Nurses when this Bill became an Act of Parliament, and hence the necessity of the Institute being in a position from the beginning to meet the additional wants at once. The Lord Provost said he had seldom come across a Report recently which would better repay reading from beginning to end. He observed that there were now 353 Queen's Nurses working throughout Scotland, and that in Edinburgh alone 5,841 cases had been nursed. It must not be forgotten that all this work had been done by fully trained Hospital Nurses, to whom special training in district nursing had been given in addition, and, in the words of Professor Alexis Thomson, "every bit of the training was necessary, as no situation made more demands on professional and humanitarian resources than did that of a District Nurse." The Lord Provost also referred to the necessity for a Pension Fund, so that there should be no difficulty when the time came when the Nurses had to retire that they should retire with some recognition of the great services they were rendering to the Community.

The subject of a Pension Fund was enlarged upon by another of the speakers, the Very Rev. Donald Macleod, D.D. He considered this a matter of the greatest importance. They must remember what the Nurses' training was. It was like the training for a learned profession. The fact that they had to pass through such a training and worked for such small pay was a reason, he

thought, why the country should do something to give them something when their day of labour was past, or to support them in time of sickness. He gave instances of the devotion of the Nurses to their work which had come under his own observation, and all that, he said, made us think that this was a heroic work, and that the Nurses were doing it in a spirit of self-sacrifice that really redeemed humanity.

Professor Sir Halliday Croom and Dr. R. H. Blaikie both spoke of the work of the Nurses of the Institute which they had intimately known since its foundation. In going from house to house, said Sir Halliday Croom, the Nurses took care that the nursing was complete, that the sanitation was in order, that if infectious disease was there it was reported; and if the people were in circumstances requiring money or help, the Nurses communicated with the proper quarter. The public heard nothing of the work; it was done in such a quiet, unostentatious and unobtrusive way. The support was therefore not so great as it ought to be. Amongst all the memorials to keep the remembrance of Queen Victoria fresh, none had gone nearer to the hearts of the public or to the poor than this Nursing Institute, or deserved their support and help more than this one.

## THE TERRITORIAL FORCE NURSING SERVICE.

The Lady Mayoress, Miss Crosbie, has accepted the chairmanship of the Territorial Force Nursing Service for the City and County of London, and Lady Dimsdale has been re-elected Vice-Chairman and Miss Goodhue Hon. Secretary.

## CHRISTMAS GREETING FROM MISS ANNIE DAMER.

The Christmas stars shine down on many lands, on many brave watchers and workers in the great nursing army; some mustered in great regiments, others isolated and alone.

To all a Christmas greeting, and to all a wish for a clear vision of the stars shining in the Christmas sky, pointing us on our way. They shine on the path of the nurse's daily duty, and on the great high road where we must march abreast, strong and united, if battles are to be won. In "unity there is strength," and the power of the future lies in the work of to-day. So may we be united in purpose and in aim and in one great bond of unity.

Ere yet another Christmas time comes round, may the stars which look down on Western and Southern lands look down also on this dear land of England, the mother-land of trained nursing, and see here, too, the great nursing army of trained women recognised by its country, and entrusted with that work for its country's health and welfare which it only can do.

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