

Morgan, who said that the Matron was the best person to judge whether candidates were suitable or not, by reason of her large and varied experience. After considerable discussion, Dr. Lancaster proposed as an amendment that information be obtained from twenty other institutions, ten London and ten provincial, as to their procedure, and this was agreed to unanimously.

There is no doubt that the Matron is the right person to select candidates, and the Board of Management should appoint them. She is the official who has the expert knowledge enabling her to judge if the candidate has the necessary qualifications, knowledge which a lay committee cannot possess. In regard to the selection of candidates from amongst the daughters of the residents, it is a good rule that girls should not train in the town in which they reside. There is less distraction from home affairs, less gossip between the hospital and the town, and no over-anxious parents to desire their daughters taken off duty on the least provocation.

Before leaving Edinburgh the Queen was pleased to forward a beautiful box of flowers consisting of sweet peas and maidenhair fern to the Bruntsfield Hospital for Women and Children, a new wing of which she opened last week. With the box was the following letter to the Matron, Miss Morrison:—I am commanded by the Queen to forward you a box of flowers which Her Majesty hopes may be a source of pleasure to some of your patients.—I am, yours very faithfully, SHAFESBURY. The flowers were distributed among the patients, and proved, as Her Majesty had hoped, a great source of pleasure.

On Friday, July 21st, the Duchess of Montrose presented the prizes to the nurses at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.

The ceremony was held in the Recreation Room of the Nurses' Home, where a large company assembled. Lady Susan Gilmour was in the chair, and the speakers included Sir James Affleck, Mr. George Berry, and Mr. Blaikie.

Before presenting the prizes the Duchess gave a very appropriate address, in which she emphasised the value of ideals in a nurses' life. Sir James Affleck is an old friend of all Edinburgh nurses, and on rising to speak he got a warm reception on account of his knighthood, conferred that morning by the King before leaving Edinburgh. He spoke of the history and progress of nursing in the Royal Infirmary.

Before the proceedings concluded Lady Susan Gilmour alluded to the regret they all felt in parting with Colonel Warburton, the Superintendent, that being his last official appearance at a nurses' function, and the feeling entertained for him by the nurses was demonstrated by their very hearty applause. Colonel Warburton, in replying, spoke of the happy relations he had always had with the nursing staff, and referred to the high standard of nursing maintained in the Royal Infirmary.

After the presentation the guests and nurses were entertained to tea in the garden, and the Duchess of Montrose was conducted round some of the wards by Miss Gill, the Lady Superintendent.

His Lordship the Most Rev. Dr. Browne, Bishop of Cloyne, opened on the 17th, at Fermoy, the new Convent of the Nursing Sisters of the Little Company of Mary. The whole building was blessed, and a telegram announcing the Pope's goodwill was read. The Bishop addressing the people said:—The home they had built for their Nursing Sisters was a fine one, elegant in design, solidly and well built, affording suitable accommodation for the Sisters and their work, while discarding rigidly any expenditure on useless or unnecessary ornament. They looked upon it as a small token and measure of high appreciation of the worth of the Nursing Sisters and of the benefits they conferred on the town and neighbourhood. They had been with them for the past six or seven years, and their work and worth were well known. Was it not the bare truth to say that it would be difficult to over-state the value to them, the rich and poor alike, of their beneficial mission? It was a blessed and merciful thing to visit the sick and comfort them by sympathy, but it was a more blessed thing to bring to the sick the practical help of skilled nursing. And this was the daily and nightly work of those Nursing Sisters; it fills in all their hours. When their hands were not engaged in tending their patients their thoughts and hearts were busy about their welfare. To a Catholic the presence of a Nursing Sister in the sick-room meant something in addition to skilled nursing. Many a time she had been the angel of healing, not merely of the body but of the soul also. In her person she presents the living picture of the beauty of holiness of life, and this living picture not infrequently appeals to the heart of a sick or dying patient, weary, perhaps, of the ways of the world, and, perhaps, too, weary of the ways of sin, and leads to a re-awakening of his faith, and with faith of hope and charity.

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