

On their left arms they carried their cloaks, for the day was dull and threatening. The Irish nurses were distinguished by their blue aprons, matching their dresses, which we preferred to the holland ones.

Queen Alexandra who—with the Empress Marie Féodorovna of Russia, Princess Victoria and Princess Henry of Battenberg—was received by the Duke of Devonshire, President of the Institute, Lady Edward Cavendish, acting as hostess in the unavoidable absence of the Duchess of Devonshire, the Duke of Norfolk, and Lord Rothschild (trustees), Viscount Goschen (Chairman of the Council) and other officials, Miss Amy Hughes, General Superintendent and Miss Lowe, Secretary. The Royal party was escorted to a pavilion on the terrace, which was decorated with pink and white flowers, the chairs being covered with blue and gold brocade. Here bouquets were presented:

To Queen Alexandra beautiful pink Malmaison carnations, by Miss Hughes, General Superintendent.

To the Empress pink tiger lilies and lilies of the valley by Miss Ellinor Smith, Superintendent for Wales.

To Her Royal Highness Princess Victoria, yellow and crimson roses, by Miss Michie, Superintendent of the Irish Branch.

To Her Royal Highness Princess Henry of Battenberg, pale pink carnations, by Miss Buckle, Nursing Superintendent for England.

To Lady Edward Cavendish, pink roses by Miss Mills, Superintendent North Home, Liverpool.

Members of the Committee were then presented to Queen Alexandra, who afterwards, on behalf of the Committee presented a silver service to Mr. Harold Boulton, C.V.O., on his resignation of the post of Hon. Treasurer. Her Majesty escorted by the Duke of Devonshire and followed by the Empress and Princesses then inspected the nurses, passing between the lines which faced each other, the nurses curtseying as the Queen passed. After the last had been reviewed, and the parade dismissed, the Queen and the Royal party still walked about among the groups of nurses, for some minutes before returning to the terrace.

Tea was then served in the marquees on either side of the lawn to the guests of the afternoon, the general visitors being provided for in the ball room.

The nurses were manifestly delighted with the opportunity of meeting one another. At six o'clock the House was thrown open to them, and many took the opportunity of seeing the ball room, and the beautiful pictures by famous masters.

## THE PRELIMINARY TRAINING SCHOOL.\*

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So important have been the changes, and so rapid has been the progress which surgery and medicine have made during the last twenty years, that it seems but natural and advisable to pass in review the corresponding advances which have been made in the training of nurses during the same period. Among the many changes which we can look upon with satisfaction, the establishment of the preliminary nursing school for pupil nurses is undoubtedly one which has produced widespread advantages and has definitely led to an improved standard. I believe the credit for the idea of this scheme must be accorded to Sir William Macewen, of the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, who, in the year 1893, was instrumental in advising and helping Mrs. Strong, when Matron of that institution, to arrange for a compulsory course of instruction at St. Mungo's College, Glasgow, which all intending probationers were obliged to take as a preliminary to the hospital training. In 1895 came the opening of Tredegar House, at the London Hospital, Whitechapel, and a year or so later Miss Nutting, who had recently been appointed Superintendent of Nurses at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, U.S.A., started a preliminary training school for pupils with a six months' course, the first institution of its kind in America. In later years the scheme was taken up at Guy's Hospital in 1902, at Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital in 1905, and at St. Thomas' Hospital in 1909. The Leicester Infirmary and the Royal Infirmary, Bristol, have also established preliminary training schools.

The passing of years has only served to strengthen belief in the value of such a system of education for any institution where nurses are in training. The reasons for this are easy to understand. In the first place, as a direct result of the extensive research in medicine and surgery during the past few years, there is greater detail both in routine work and in the more highly specialised assistance which nurses are called upon to give in the ward, in the operating theatre, and in the various special departments. In other words, the physician and the surgeon demand a high standard of intelligence and of general education from the women who assist them in their scientific work.

\* Read at the Nursing Conference, Dublin, June 4th, 1913.

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