

Kitty Wilkinson came from a humble rank in life; she was not a trained nurse but, as told by Mr. Herbert Rathbone to the Jubilee Congress on District Nursing at Liverpool in 1909, the wife of a cotton porter, who in the year 1832 found herself living in one of the very poorest districts of Liverpool, among a poor and ignorant population. "The conditions of life in Liverpool at that time were truly terrible. A very large immigration from Ireland had taken place of poverty-stricken families who were crowded into dwellings which were originally intended to accommodate possibly one-tenth of the number which actually did come in. There was no such thing as sanitation, or drains, or dust carts, or sanitary appliances of that kind. What resulted? A terrible scourge of cholera occurred in which thousands of people perished. In this district in which this poor woman, whose name was Kitty Wilkinson, lived, the patients were dying and nobody was looking after them. Her husband earned only twenty shillings per week, and twenty shillings did not go far in those days. She undertook the nursing of the patients and she got advice and assistance from others with whom she was acquainted. But she did not stop at nursing the patients. She did more. She saw that the great cause of infection lay in the clothes that had been used by the patients and others associated with the patients, and that there was no means of washing these clothes. So she threw open her cellar. She had a boiler in it, and her friends got other boilers put in to assist in the work, and she got the people to come to her cellar to wash the infected clothes and the other clothes which had been in contact with the infection.

"That simple enterprise of Kitty Wilkinson was the beginning of public washhouses. The very first public washhouse in the world was started as the direct result of what Kitty Wilkinson had there done. Her work did not stop there. Many children there were whose parents had died in the cholera plague, so Kitty Wilkinson and her husband adopted those children, and they looked after them, and planted them out as they grew up with

different employers, and they were so anxious that they should not lose their employment that Thomas Wilkinson, the husband, used to go in the early morning to see that they got up in time to go to their work. He knocked them up himself. But the work did not stop even there. I do not believe she had ever any education herself, but she knew its value, and so she got people to assist her in providing education for the children. And that was the beginning of the first public school in Liverpool—the South Corporation School. I have only told you the story for this reason, because it was all done by a woman in very humble life, with no educational advantages, and no training."



MISS MARGARET HUXLEY, M.A.,
Pioneer of Nursing Education in Ireland.

We have been urged by several of our younger colleagues, who, as they say, have so largely benefited by the pioneer work of others for the better education and status of nurses during the last quarter of a century, to publish pictures of these leaders and give some historettes of their work.

Of this noble company the name of Miss Margaret Huxley, M.A., F.B.C.N., stands in the front rank.

Miss Huxley is one of the most distinguished pupils of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, having trained there in the early eighties of the last century, when Miss Ethel Manson (Mrs. Bedford Fenwick) was Matron and Superintendent of Nursing. The whole of her professional life has been devoted to work in Ireland where for many years she was Lady Superintendent of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, Dublin, and she has been the pioneer of the higher education and State Registration of Nurses in Ireland. In recognition of her public services in connection with Nursing the Senate of Dublin University conferred upon her the Hon. Degree of Master of Arts in June, 1928, when the Public

Orator in a Latin speech paid a striking tribute to her energy, loftiness of purpose, and singleness of mind, alluding to her long and epoch-making connection with Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital and pointing out that probably the greatest achievement of her life had been to secure proper training for Irish Nurses, and proper registration and

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