

NURSES OF NOTE.

MISS ANNIE McWILLIE PETERKIN, C.B.E., S.R.N.
General Superintendent, The Queen's Institute of District Nursing.

To have come to the close of an honourable nursing career extending over forty years, and to say, "if I had my time to come over again, I would have chosen just the same," implies two things, happiness and satisfaction in the work chosen and a true vocation. Such is the happy position of Miss A. M. Peterkin, C.B.E., S.R.N., the General Superintendent of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, who is relinquishing this position in July next.

It will be remembered that Queen Victoria devoted to the establishment of the Institute £70,000, the Jubilee offering to Her Majesty of the women of Great Britain and Ireland, and that it was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1889, under the name of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, the name being altered when a revised Charter was granted to the Institute in 1928.

Miss Peterkin, who is of Scottish nationality, having been born in the county of Caithness, received her training at Chalmers Hospital, Banff, and her certificate in 1892. She at once joined the Institute, receiving her district training at the Home of the Metropolitan and National District Nursing Association, at 23, Bloomsbury Square, W.C., where Miss Amy Hughes was at that time Superintendent. "I did hope she would not send me away," says Miss Peterkin. As we know, she did not, but sensed the capacity of the pupil who was ultimately to succeed her in the highest post the Institute has to offer, that of General Superintendent.

The principal positions held by Miss Peterkin at the conclusion of her district training were five years in connection with the Bridgwater District Nursing Association; five years as Superintendent of the Birmingham Central Home, Newhall Street; Inspector for the Eastern Counties, being stationed at Peterborough; Inspector, Lancashire and Cheshire, being stationed at Manchester; and then successively Superintendent of the Irish Branch; Superintendent of the Scottish Branch; and, lastly, General Superintendent, The Queen's Institute of District Nursing, 58, Victoria Street, S.W., the position which she now holds.

Miss Peterkin has seen service in three reigns, and has had the honour of being received, with other Queen's

Nurses, at Windsor by Queen Victoria, at Marlborough House by Queen Alexandra, and at Buckingham Palace by Queen Mary.

Miss Peterkin emphasises that from the foundation of the Institute, the law laid down by Florence Nightingale has been carried out, that the homes must be nursed as well as the patients, and that the nurses must teach the family as well as nurse the sick person.

Referring to the changes which she has seen during her long experience of district nursing, Miss Peterkin says, "I can certainly say that there is less dirt, misery, and squalor than there was when I began to work as a district nurse, the housing conditions are better, though there is still more to be done, and the standard of living is higher."

When Miss Peterkin gives up her work in July, she will be greatly missed, not only as a very able administrator, but as a kind and courteous colleague held by many in sincere admiration and affection.

Before settling down to a life which will, no doubt, be still

full of interest, for she has too many ties with the nursing world for it ever to become aimless, she hopes to visit Australia and then to return to this country across Canada—a most delightful programme.

We wish her much happiness in a new environment.

Miss Peterkin's predecessors as General Superintendent, over a period of forty-five years, have been Miss Rosalind Paget, Miss Pauline Peter, and Miss Amy Hughes.



MISS ANNIE McWILLIE PETERKIN, C.B.E., S.R.N.

A NURSING PAGEANT.

A History of Nursing Pageant from 1132 B.C.-A.D. 1932, produced by the Sister Tutors' Section of the College of Nursing, will take place in the Polytechnic, Portland Street Extension Hall on Friday, April 29th, at 5.30 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. Student Nurses of the following Hospitals will take part in it: St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Guy's Hospital, King's College Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, St. Thomas's Hospital, Willesden General Hospital, the Royal Sussex Hospital, Brighton. Programme sellers: the Middlesex Hospital and University College Hospital.

Tickets can be obtained from Miss Fletcher, London Branch Secretary, at the College of Nursing, Henrietta Street, Cavendish Square, W.1, or from Miss Hillyers, Pageant Organiser, St. Thomas's Hospital, S.E.1. All communications by post should be sent to Miss Hillyers, who will gladly forward tickets on receipt of payment if stamped addressed envelope is sent. Afternoon Performance, 1s. 3d.; Evening Performance, 2s. Early application will ensure tickets.

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