

Special Prize for Medical Nursing, Nurse J. C. Matheson, "Annie Warren Gill" Memorial Prize for Dietetics. Theory and Practice: Nurse A. W. Porter, B.A., *proxime accessit* for the "Affleck" Medal, and Nurse M. J. Robb, the "Affleck" Medal.

Such ceremonies are naturally exceedingly gratifying to pupils and teachers. To win First Prizes at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, is an honour indeed, and should open up a brilliant future for those who attain such recognition.

It will hardly be believed, but we are informed that space could not be allotted in the Women's Pavilion, at the Empire Exhibition at Glasgow, for a Nursing Exhibit. It seems incredible considering the high standard of nursing in the majority of Scotland's splendid hospitals. When we think of the generous facilities provided by the Board of Lady Managers for the Nursing Section in the Women's Building, sent from England to the Chicago World's Fair in 1893, it would appear that the world in general is extraordinarily ignorant and indifferent to scientific nursing at the present time.

As provident home nursing schemes extend, as they are doing to the middle classes, there is no doubt that what is known as private nursing will decrease. The idea underlying these schemes is similar to that which led to the formation of the Greater London Provident Scheme for District Nursing, with the exception that there is no income limit.

The subscriber pays a small annual contribution, as low, in some cases of a man and his dependants, as 4s. 4d., and rising to 10s. 6d. in households where one maid is kept, or £1 1s., in which case all resident domestic staff are included. In return the Association undertakes to provide a visiting nurse to carry out skilled nursing under medical direction. Midwifery and certain infectious diseases are not included in the scheme, and there is an additional charge of 5s. for attendance at an operation. The Greater London Provident Scheme for District Nursing has already 20,000 contributors.

Subscribers in employment pay  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a week and those in social groups 1d. a week. The benefits are confined to those whose incomes do not exceed £400 a year. The scheme is worked in close association with trade unions and women's associations.

It would appear that Dr. Frederick Beddow, of Portsmouth, Chairman of the Portsmouth Victoria Nurses' Association, realises the true value of good nursing. He has, almost entirely at his own cost, built a branch home of the Association—which has to serve 40,000 families—to serve the northern part of the city. Appropriately named Beddow House, the new home was recently opened by Lady Cork and Orrery, who was glad to know the Nurses would be available for the families of Service men.

At luncheon at the Guildhall, Rear-Admiral R. Ross Turner, Admiral Superintendent, proposed Dr. Beddow's health, and Miss Hill conveyed the congratulations of the Queen's Nurses' Institute on the provision of the home.

It is apparent that our present Home Secretary is a very humane man, and, as a great-nephew of

Elizabeth Fry—that "all prisoners and captives" will receive the utmost consideration permissible under the penal code; and as we are a very humane people, he will have our support so long as justice is satisfied and crimes of cruelty pay the price. Let us one and all bestir ourselves to prevent the social conditions in which crime germinates and comes to full growth.

*The County Officers Gazette* is devoting space to "Nurses Chatter," reported by Miss Doris E. Westmacott, S.R.N. She is evidently a trades unionist by conviction, and we gather she has practical knowledge of what she is writing about. Also she is evidently not afraid of work—only of drudgery, which in time deadens the Soul.

On May 23rd she writes of the nursing of chronic cases (two from memos we have read submitted to the Inter-departmental Committee) these unfortunate patients can very well be fobbed off with assistant—that is untrained nurses—with one trained nurse, the Sister to do all the nursing of a ward containing 79 beds! A superhuman strain.

"The authorities (writes Miss Westmacott) seem to think that we who are endeavouring to make better conditions possible, are concerned only with ourselves. They do not realise that the issue is far greater; whatever the conditions, they are bound to neglect some of the patients."

We do hope registered nurses will stand firmly in opposition to those public authorities—who apparently cannot realise that a chronic invalid is a suffering body, in need of skilled and tender care—and who should not be nursed by unskilled persons on the cheap.

Mr. J. J. Crosfield, of Embley Park, recently opened his latest gift to the South Hampshire market town of Romsey—a £3,000 lido.

He recently gave a £2,000 concert and dance hall to this town of 5,000 people, and has contributed more than £5,000 for new equipment in the model hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Crosfield have been generosity itself in welcoming Nurses from all over the world at their lovely seat, formerly the home of Florence Nightingale.

The convent at Florence, which for 650 years has housed the Oblate Ospitaliere, the nursing Sisters who serve the hospital of Sta. Maria Nuova, has been closed. The Sisters have been moved to Careggi, where the great hospital has been transferred to fine modern buildings, in which we wish them many happy years of service.

#### MISS CATHERINE BLACK DECORATED.

##### "THE KING'S NURSE."

The King received Miss Catherine Black at Buckingham Palace on May 31st, and invested her with the insignia of a Member of the Royal Victorian Order (Fourth Class). Sister Black was one of the four nurses who attended King George V during his severe illness in 1928, and was afterwards attached to the Royal Household as nurse.

During the lifetime of his late Majesty, Sister Black was known throughout the profession as "The King's Nurse" and was thus greeted with admiration during a recent visit to the Dominions.

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