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EDITORIAL.

YESTERDAY AND TO-DAY.

THE SHEFFIELD ROYAL INFIRMARY CELEBRATES ITS THIRD JUBILEE.

On an October day one hundred and fifty years ago a "Grand Procession" left St. Paul's Church, Sheffield, and wended its way, with bands playing and banners waving, through the streets of the town, out into the green countryside, to where, in thirty acres of pasture and woodland, stood the newly built General Infirmary. The townspeople of Sheffield were celebrating the opening of the building, for which £15,000 had been raised by subscription, built to house the sick poor for treatment. History does not relate what the citizens did when they reached the Infirmary, but it does tell us that they returned to the Angel Inn, where a dinner was provided at seven shillings and sixpence a head "Ordinary and Extraordinary." It is known also that, owing to a regrettable last minute quarrel between rival factions in the town, two processions were formed; though the rivalry went no further, and the second procession did not set out until the first had reached the Infirmary.

The Sheffield General Infirmary, now known as the Royal Infirmary, has been celebrating its third Jubilee by holding two open days for the citizens of Sheffield and District to visit and inspect its many departments. There was no procession, but the first of the 3,500 visitors were at the gates well before the opening time. The Royal Infirmary no longer stands in open fields but is now surrounded by industrial works and tenement houses. The once pleasant stream of the Don where Isaac Walton was wont to fish now runs muddily between factories. The fruitful beds of the Infirmary garden, which was noted for the quality of its produce (as late as 1853 the House Surgeon was severely reprimanded by the Weekly Board for eating asparagus which, it turned out, had been obtained from the Infirmary grounds), have given way to twelve additional blocks built since the opening to house beds of a different character which have raised the complement from 100 to 460. Eight of these blocks were open for inspection and the General Public were invited to view the many exhibitions of one hundred and fifty years of progress there placed on show.

The Nursing Staff's Exhibition.

The Nursing Staff's exhibition, held in their Lecture Room, showed, by means of model Wards and Posters, the difference between Nursing and Nursing conditions in 1797 and the present day. It showed the first Nurse to come to the General Infirmary, one Margaret Howard who must have been sixty-seven years of age when, she

took up her appointment, for her obituary notice in the Sheffield Directory gave her age then (in 1827) as ninety-six. It is regrettable also to have to say that she must have been illiterate, for in 1847 the Weekly Board of the Infirmary decided to advertise for a nurse who could "read and write," but for fear that their high standard might produce no applicants they qualified their remark by saying that she should at least be able to "read writing." One wonders what Mrs. Singleton, the first Matron appointed in 1797, would have made of the young eighteen year old Student Nurse of to-day, with her neat serviceable uniform, her independence and technical knowledge. The overcrowded Ward with valanced wooden bedsteads, open fireplace and oil lamps (we read that gas was introduced into the Infirmary in 1856), contrasted well with the modern airy Ward with widely spaced iron bedsteads and blood transfusions, stomach suction, oxygen administration and other modern treatments on show. Another section of the room dealt with the progress of nursing education from the early nineteenth century when the Infirmary Staff was obtained from a Nurses' Home in Beet Street, Sheffield (which had been founded in 1800 to provide the sick poor with nursing in their own homes, a forerunner of our district nurses); through 1898 when the first Training Certificates were granted, the training was at first two years and later increased to four, and all the teaching was given in the Wards; to the modern Classroom complete with miniature Sister Tutor, blackboard, models and charts and an attentive class. A picture gallery of Staff Groups, Christmas Concert parties and League Reunions, an impressive array of silver cups for tennis, swimming and hockey, and a miniature tennis court and swimming pool with tennis team and divers showed that a modern nurse's life is not all work, and attracted an interested and appreciative crowd.

The Operating Theatre Block.

The Operating Theatre Block caused a bottleneck owing to the great difficulty in persuading the interested visitors to move on. They gazed, fascinated, at a replica of the original Infirmary operating room, with its wooden operating table (a much prized museum piece of the Royal Infirmary), bucket of tar and live models of frock-coated ruffle-shirted doctors; working by candle-light to amputate a leg. In the next room the awe-stricken visitors saw another operation, on a wonderful copper operating table, well-known to generations of Infirmary Nurses, whose elbow grease kept it highly polished, as Copper David. This operation, an amputation of arm, was being carried out under open chloroform anæsthesia with full antiseptic technique including a carbolic spray. Here the Surgeon, in black

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