

The Rockwood Review.

CLOSING EXERCISES OF ROCKWOOD TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NURSES.

A new departure was made this year, and the Closing Exercises of the Rockwood Training School for Nurses was held on the Beech Grove Lawn on the afternoon of May 31st. Everything conspired to make the affair a success, and some four hundred of Kingston's prominent citizens gathered to do honor to the occasion. Rockwood, lovely as it is in the summer, is a Paradise about the 1st of June, and it never looked more beautiful than it did on the afternoon of the Closing—Lilacs, honeysuckles and apple blossoms filled the air with a delightful fragrance, the foliage of the beechgrove was in its most attractive stage of development, and the lawns were perfect in color and velvety softness. The Band was stationed on the North Cottage Verandah, the graduating Nurses and prize winners were placed under a beech tree while the large assembly of smartly dressed women and men were grouped about a dais erected for the occasion. Refreshments were served in a booth decorated with lilacs and bunting, and the whole picture was one not to be forgotten by those present. The different buildings were thrown open for the inspection of the visitors, and after the exercises were over a great number visited the Hospital, Cottages and main building.

Dr. Clarke opened the proceedings and after making the guests welcome said, "Generally speaking Rockwood is content to carry along its work quietly, and without asking for much applause from the outside world, but now and again, when some unkind and absolutely stupid criticism is made, we wonder if the general public really understands the work we are doing. Judged by ordinary standards, perhaps there is no more thankless task in the world

than that of endeavoring to manage a Hospital for the Insane. Rockwood is more fortunately situated than many such institutions, because here we receive much help and encouragement from kindly citizens, and experience much courtesy and consideration from most of the members of the press, who are apparently quite willing to believe that we live as closely to the golden rule as we know how. Ungenerous criticisms are, of course, sometimes made by people who are possessed, or at least think they are, of divine inspiration, or perhaps, for some mysterious purpose only known to themselves, say cruel and unkind things. When they wish to repair the injury they find that it is impossible to make good the harm done. Here we learn that genius is allied to madness, consequently it does not require the exercise of much charity to make allowance for the genius which can find evil where no evil exists. Speaking as the Senior Medical Officer in the Ontario Service I may be excused for briefly referring to the work of the Training School. When I entered the Ontario service nearly twenty-six years ago, it was my good fortune to be under the guidance of Dr. Joseph Workman, whose intellectual equal has not been known in Canadian Medicine. He was revered by all who knew him, and as an alienist was recognized as one of the foremost in the world. His institution was far in advance of his time, and yet if Dr. Workman had lived to be with us to-day, he would have been the first to admit that what exists at present would not have been considered possible then. He regarded my scheme of a Training School as chimerical. Since then, restraint has been abolished in Ontario, and in Rockwood Hospital mechanical restraint has been gone away with for nearly eighteen years. Some very clever people, with a quiet smile, tell me that such is not the case, but once more the evil genius