

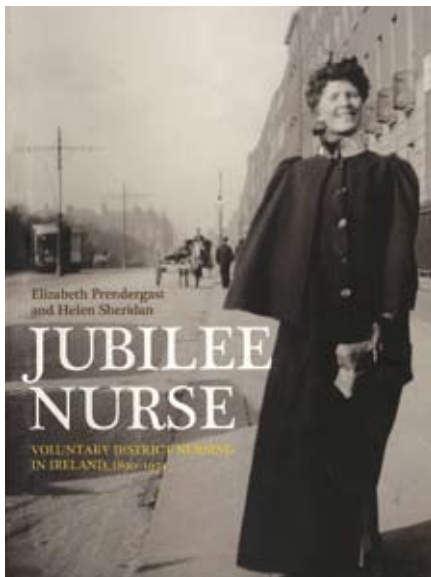
# HEALTH & LIVING

## Celebrating the jubilee nurses

*JUBILEE Nurse* by Elizabeth Prendergast and Helen Sheridan tells the story of the nurses who worked in the poorest parts of the country, from inner city Dublin to rural districts and remote islands, from 1890-1974. It vividly describes their duties, as well as the history of the Queen's Institute in Ireland.

The training of jubilee nurses was financed by donations made to honour the diamond jubilee of Queen Victoria. They wore a distinctive long grey or black coat and travelled by bicycle or pony and trap. The nurses worked from early morning until late evening, seven days a week. Sunday might be a 'rest day,' but the nurses were often called for an emergency. They were often called on during the night and were heavily relied on by people of the time, who were largely terrified of going to hospital.

Most jubilee nurses made in excess of 5,000 house calls a year and many cycled up to 30 miles a day. They were encouraged not to marry, and on marriage had to cease employment. Nurses often stayed in the same district until retirement and became a part of their communities.



The book depicts the sheer poverty people were living in, with little food, heat or clothes. In the early years, the lack of electricity or running water made the nurses' job even tougher. Essentials such as bandages were baked in the oven and kept in a biscuit tin to keep them sterile.

Jubilee nurses worked through World War I and II, when diseases such as TB,

typhoid and diphtheria were common. In a time before antibiotics, epidemics made for challenging times. Many nurses were also trained in midwifery and responsible for setting up baby clubs to educate women on how best to look after their babies.

The book profiles some long-standing jubilee nurses such as Annie P. Smithson, INMO general secretary (1929-1943). Some districts are explored in great detail, including Dundrum, Naas, Mallow and Donegal. Examples of particular cases faced by nurses are also included and the work of the Women's National Health Association is also explored.

The authors drew on many sources, they held interviews with former nurses and analysed Queen's Institute Records and An Bord Altranais archives. Photographs of nurses illustrate the book beautifully and will evoke memories for those who remember the nurses.

*Jubilee Nurse* is a good read for those with an interest in the history of nursing.

– **Edel Reynolds**

**INMO assistant librarian**

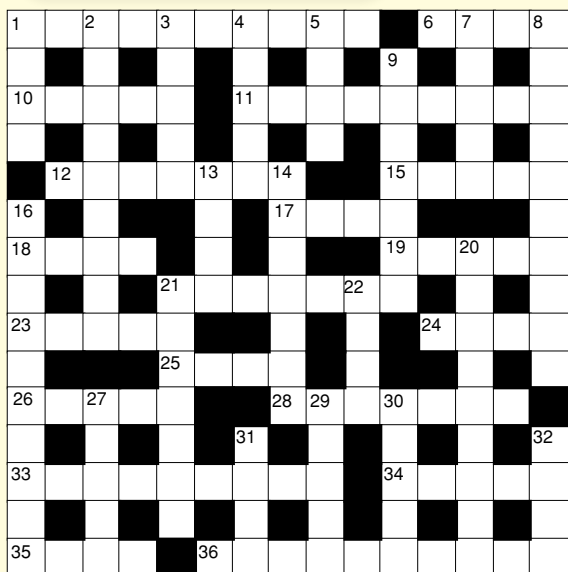
*Jubilee Nurse* is published by Orpen Press  
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## Crossword Competition

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€30  
Book Token



### Across

1. Make a dim lad edge around when no longer in youth. (6-4)
6. Mimics. (4)
10. Out of condition. (5)
11. Some rayon lump may relate to the lungs. (9)
12. She is engaged to be married. (7)
15. In the Bible, the only son of Abraham and Sarah. (5)
17. If you take part in this, there'll be questions asked! (4)
18. Lily. (4)
19. City in Nebraska. (5)
21. The linen Ma rearranged provides a pigment. (7)
23. Saltpetre. (5)
24. Headland worn about the shoulders. (4)
25. The highest male voice. (4)
26. Merits. (5)
28. One with a large cattle farm. (7)
33. Trembling with cold. (9)
34. Vistas or opinions. (5)
35. Toy that has its ups and downs! (2-2)
36. Mesmerised. (10)

### Down

1. Formation in Rugby to be differentiated from a ruck. (4)
2. Hard. (9)
3. Airport town in Bedfordshire. (5)
4. One of the five-a-day Adam and Eve should have avoided! (5)
5. Ms Fitzgerald was known as the 'Queen of Jazz'. (4)
7. Spanish square. (5)
8. Tall urban building. (10)
9. Where the sky appears to touch the earth. (7)
13. Dice shape. (4)
14. Imaginary line, at zero degrees latitude. (7)
16. In a way that causes no soreness. (10)
20. Sean wears out with heedfulness. (9)
21. Ailment characterised by spots. (7)
22. Element essential for the formation of haemoglobin. (4)
27. Showery. (5)
29. Gas that might come from the organ. (5)
30. Desire a firm animal doctor. (5)
31. Very small. (4)

### Solutions for December/January:

- Across:** 1. Tap 3. Square dance 8. Meekly 9. Apple pie 10. Exalt 11. Smith 13. Wings 15. Relaxed 16. Kingdom 20. Scold 21. Flair 23. Angel 24. High five 25. Aplomb 26. Marketplace 27. Eon
- Down:** 1. Tamperproof 2. Prenatal 3. Split 4. Away in a manger 5. Dolls 6. Napkin 7. Eve 12. Haemoglobin 13. Weeds 14. Skied 17. Diagnose 18. Conceal 22. Rifle 23. Ample 24. Ham

The winner of the  
December/January  
crossword is:  
**Gwen Mooney**  
from  
Donegal

Name: .....  
Address: .....  
.....  
.....

The prize will go to the first all correct entry opened.

Closing date: Wednesday, February 20, 2013

Post your entry to: Crossword Competition,

The World of Irish Nursing, MedMedia Publications, 25 Adelaide Street, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin