

In the *Aberdeen Free Press* a very interesting letter appears from an English nurse who volunteered for active service in the war, and was fortunate enough to be selected.

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"We fully expected to rough it in tents, and live on pork, beans, and hard tack; instead of that, we found a splendid building which had been used by the Spaniards as a hospital, had been utilised by the army, and was already in working order. It is quite imposing-looking, and is built in the form of a hollow square, the centre of which is a large paved courtyard, with a fountain playing in the middle. All the wards open on the court and the outside, so the ventilation is very good. The floors are of cement, and the walls tiled with marble for about five feet from the floor. The town itself is about two miles inland from the port of Ponce, and the hospital is splendidly situated on a hill overlooking the town, with the harbour plainly to be seen—the atmosphere is so clear.

A house just a short distance up the hill has been leased for us, and here we have settled down as if we had been born and bred here. At first, it was all so odd and weird to us; all the rooms open into one another, each one having four or five doors in it. A pleasant garden surrounds the mansion, which supplies us with roses in abundance, pomegranates, limes, coconuts, &c: The earth looks so dry and parched, it is a wonder the plants live—but they do.

The hospital is full of sick men—mostly typhoid fever patients. As soon as they are convalescent they are sent north in the transport ships, and other sick ones are brought in from the outlying camps. We have our hands full—work every minute when on duty, and then feel we have not done all we want to. But everyone says the whole hospital and condition of the patients has improved since the nurses came. This is as it should be, for there was great need of improvement."

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THE Nurses' Registry, at 686, Lexington Avenue, New York, is a charming home for the twenty members between their cases, and is deservedly popular. The nurses have been especially busy of late, as they all volunteered their services during the war, and many of them were called upon to nurse the soldiers. Lately three of the members of the Registry, Miss Miller, Miss Curry, and Miss Baker, have gone to Porto Rico to render much needed service there. They had a hearty "send-off" from the other members of the Registry, all of whom are, after the manner of nurses, pining for active service.

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A MEETING was recently held in Kansas City, U.S., at the suggestion of Miss Gertrude M. Johnson, a graduated nurse of the University College training school for nurses, for the purpose of arranging for the opening of a hospital for coloured people. The proposition met with the hearty approval of all present, and the officers and Board of management were elected.

## The Hospital World.

### WHERE PHTHISIS IS TREATED. ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE CHEST. CITY ROAD.

THE Chest Hospital, City Road, is situated in the centre of a poor and dense population, and proves no doubt, a boon to many of the hard workers of the neighbourhood when sickness and disease overtakes them. The hospital is a bright and cheery one, and the well kept brasses in the entrance porch at once give one the impression that the domestic arrangements are well ordered and supervised.

The patients are accommodated in three wards, which are of somewhat unusual shape, being in form of a cross. The effect is certainly prettier than that of a long straight ward, but the supervision of such a ward must be more difficult than is ordinarily the case, as all the patients cannot be under observation at the same time. There is a recreation room to which those patients who are able come down for a certain time every day, the women from three to five, and the men from five to seven. The nursing is efficiently superintended by Miss Agnes Megginson, whose recent appointment as Matron to the Merchant Taylors' Convalescent Home we chronicle in another column. The wards of the Chest Hospital are superintended by experienced sisters who have all had general training. This is also a requirement for staff nurses. The probationers come and go, and it is, as is usually the case in special hospitals, difficult to retain them for more than a short period. With respect to the special precautions with regard to infection, disinfectants are placed in the spittoons, but the contents are not subsequently cremated. This practice, indeed, would appear to be peculiar to the Brompton Consumptive Hospital, but it would seem to be the safest, and most rational method of disposing of highly infectious material.

Since Miss Megginson's appointment to the Chest Hospital, a room occasionally used as an isolation ward has been adapted as a theatre. The hospital so far has been under the great disadvantage of having no operation room, and the addition of the present one is therefore a most necessary improvement.

A charming room for a night superintendent, has also recently been built, and a night superintendent appointed. The appointment cannot fail to be productive of the greatest good, both with regard to the well being of the patients, and the discipline of the nursing staff.

A room is also set apart as a chapel, and has been tastefully, and suitably furnished for this purpose.

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