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Cocoa

THE

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"QUI NON PROFICIT DEFICIT."

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Editorial.

NURSES AS COLONISTS.

THE question has been brought before us whether there are openings at the present time for trained nurses in South Africa. There can be little doubt that, on the declaration of peace, and with the influx of Government officials and traders from this country which must subsequently take place, the need for the services of nurses will be increased. Further, nurses who are practical women, as all nurses should be, and who are willing to turn their hands to many matters not strictly within their province, are specially valuable as colonists, and we are therefore of opinion that every inducement should be offered to them by the Government to settle in South Africa.

Nevertheless, at the present time, we should deprecate a rush of nurses or any other enterprising men or women to that country. It will take some little time for it to return to its normal condition, then there are the refugees and their families to be considered, and it is both natural and right that their claims should first be attended to. It must further be remembered that South Africa has a body of registered nurses trained in Cape Colony, and acquainted with its ways, and that, beyond these,

there are a large number of Army Reserve nurses on the spot, ready to take advantage of desirable openings, and who have, during the past year become acquainted with African diseases, and with the conditions of life in South Africa. Nurses at home will therefore do well to pause, before booking their passages to the Cape for some time to come, though it is probable that eventually their services will be appreciated and welcomed in our newest Colony. In any case, it will be wise for them to secure appointments before leaving this country, unless they have relatives or friends in South Africa who are prepared to receive them on their arrival. Under favourable conditions there is little doubt that the emigration of suitable nurses would be of great benefit, for the training and discipline passed through by a nurse make her a valuable factor in educating the native in the ways of civilization. The black man responds to a firm and even rule, and never resents discipline when enforced by a just hand. His best hope of becoming a valuable member of the body politic lies in his being taught a trade or profession, by which he can earn his living, while subjected to wholesome discipline, and amongst the openings for him we may suggest that of trained nursing, which he has to some extent already successfully entered in East Africa.

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