

Rhodesia, and surviving members of the Chartered Company's Pioneer forces, will grieve to learn that one of the victims was Sister Joan Birchman, one of the nursing sisters of the order of St. Dominic, who, with the late Rev. Mother Patrick, went up to Salisbury in the early part of 1891, where they rendered great assistance to the sick.

When we consider that it is only forty years ago since the war in America between the North and South, it is wonderful to think that in New York itself there is now a training school for coloured women, which on December 7th graduated its first class of "Trained Nurses," yet here before us is the report of the "Coloured Home and Hospital, and Training School for Nurses," East 141st Street, and Concord Avenue, New York City. The charming illustrations show that the institution is excellently appointed, and that the professional appearance of the nurses would do credit to any hospital.

The newly graduated nurses, who have received their diplomas and badges, passed successfully written, oral, and practical examinations, given by the medical and surgical staff of the hospital. Mrs. Everett Herrick, the corresponding secretary, writes: "It is indeed an epoch in the history of the coloured people of our city and State, this first public recognition of their entrance into the ranks of a most noble and self-sacrificing profession. The six young graduates who will receive their diplomas, have had every advantage of study, lecture, and practical training that it has been in our power to give them. Our attending staff of physicians and surgeons have been most painstaking and enthusiastic in their course of instruction, and the final examinations held by them have shown most gratifying results. We are assured that these nurses go forth into the world fully equipped for the work before them. They have been so studious, so earnest and conscientious, so ambitious, and seem so imbued with the serious responsibilities of life and health, and even death, now confronting them, that we feel confident of their success."

At the present time there are thirteen nurses in training in the school. During the year there have been thirty-three applicants for admission, fourteen were admitted on probation, eleven were accepted, three were rejected as unsuitable, and one was obliged to give up her training on account of ill-health.

The Matron and Superintendent of the training school is Mrs. Harriet D. Morgan, who presents an annual report of her Department to the Board of Managers, which is subsequently published.

County Hospitals.

By MISS MOLLETT,

Matron of the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital.

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A GENERAL SURVEY.

To summarise: A free county hospital is a place built and maintained by the public for their poorer neighbours and dependants to live or wait in, whilst they receive gratuitous medical and surgical treatment. The drugs, dressings, necessary attendance, food, domestic comforts, the resident medical and nursing staff, all are provided voluntarily by the public, whilst the visiting staff give their services gratuitously. All the different departments in the hospital are, or should be, arranged for one object; in fact, the whole hospital may be likened to a cone, whose apex is the individual patient. The public has a right to expect that the various executive officers and servants in its employment shall aid it honestly in an effort to assist others which is, undoubtedly, an outcome of a very highly developed philanthropic spirit.

In running a county hospital, if I may use such a term, the fact that it is essential that it should be "popular" can never be lost sight of. It must be popular with the class that supports it, the class that likes to have a creditable place in exchange for its money, well kept and well found, that likes to be well received when it visits the hospital, and to hear it well spoken of outside. Little things will often make a place unpopular with some people, cheques not promptly acknowledged, inquiries unanswered, names or titles incorrectly given in reports and so forth. Last and not least, people like to feel that when giving a letter for the hospital it will be appreciated, and that the patients they send in will be well looked after, and be grateful for the benefits they have received, instead of grumbling at inattention and neglect.

A county hospital must also be popular with those for whom it exists. Patients must come to it with confidence; they must believe in its medical staff; they should have a high opinion of its house surgeons, they must like, and trust the nursing staff, they ought to be as comfortable and as "at home" in the wards as discipline and the necessity of carrying out treatment will allow. In all things the patients ought to be the first and foremost consideration. The fact that it is their hospital, built and maintained for them, should never be lost sight of, even in details; it will pay, on the lowest grounds, in its popularity amongst those for whom it was intended.

In the ideal hospital, all work together in disciplined union for the same end. Perhaps for

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