

Africa. The committee have great pleasure in drawing attention to the following passage in Sir James Wilcocks' despatches concerning Miss Ward and Miss Nevill, who were drafted from Nigeria to work at the base hospital during the late Ashanti campaign:—

Blue Book, "Gold Coast," presented to Parliament, March, 1900. Extract from a dispatch of Colonel Sir James Willcocks to Mr. Chamberlain, relating to field operations in Ashanti:—

"Cape Coast Castle, Dec. 25th, 1900.

21. "I would beg to bring to favourable notice the following officers and others who have done specially good work.
13. "Matron A. Ward and Nursing Sister K. Nevill, both of the West African Frontier Force. These ladies, although they had completed over a year's service in West Africa, volunteered to serve with the field force. They rendered most valuable service in that trying climate, and by their kindly care and devotion to duty alleviated much suffering.

"Of the seven nursing sisters employed with the force, I specially recommend the two above."

Miss Ward and Miss Nevill have since received the Royal Red Cross. It is with great regret that the committee have to record the death at sea of Miss Sinclair, of the Government Civil Staff, N. Nigeria, on her return home from that colony. This is the second death which has occurred among the staff of the association since its foundation. The great increase of work and additional expense in connection with the selection of Government nurses has led the committee to make an application to the Colonial Office for some assistance. This request has been met in the form of a registration fee for each nurse selected by the association for Government service. In consequence of the many calls on the public purse during the past year it was felt that it would be impossible to raise the balance still required to make up the £5,000 invested capital originally asked for by Mrs. Chamberlain. It is hoped that this year the remainder of this very modest sum may be subscribed, in order to set the association on a perfectly sound financial basis. It has also been proposed to start a Sick Pay Fund to provide temporary financial assistance to any nurse who may become incapacitated during her connection with the association. Though every precaution is taken before dispatching nurses, and each candidate is previously examined by Dr. Patrick Manson, experience has shown that a certain percentage of ill-health must be reckoned with, and the committee wish to be in a position to afford help in cases of obvious need. The colony employing the nurse would be expected in such a case to contribute towards any relief it might be decided to grant, but the Home Association should, it is felt, be in a position to supplement it. In order to raise the nucleus of such a fund it had been arranged to hold a ball in February. In consequence of the national mourning the ball was postponed, but it is hoped to hold it later in the year. By the kindness of the editor of the *North American Review* the Committee were enabled to republish, for distribution in leaflet form, Mrs. Chamberlain's article on the history and work of the association. The printing of the leaflet was undertaken with the kind co-operation of the editor of *Nursing Notes*, who also incorporated it in the August issue of that publication, thereby insuring

its distribution to all subscribers. The death of the president has caused the following changes among the officers of the association:—Earl Grey has very kindly consented to become president of the association, and the Earl of Westmeath vice-president. Mrs. Francis Piggott, to whose energy and initiative the association owes its establishment, has been obliged to resign the post of honorary secretary. The burden of correspondence and office work has increased enormously of late years, and necessitates a division of labour. Mrs. Piggott continues her work on committee, and as chairman of the Nursing Committee directs the important work of the election of nurses. She has also been elected honorary vice-president of the association, as a recognition of the place in its councils to which all members must feel that she is entitled. On the resignation of Mrs. Piggott, Lady Amptill was good enough to undertake the work, and during the months of August and September carried on single-handed the business of the association. At the end of that time, to the great regret of the committee, she was obliged to resign in order to proceed to India, and Mrs. Ernest Debenham was appointed honorary secretary in her place. Miss Horne sent in her resignation at the end of July, and Miss M. E. Dalrymple Hay was appointed assistant secretary. She began work October 1st, 1900. By the kind permission of the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland, the annual meeting was held at Stafford House in May. Lieut.-General Sir George White and the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Ripon were among the speakers, and urged the importance of trained nursing in our colonies. The committee append the first report received from the recently formed Scottish branch of the association. In conclusion, the committee tenders its grateful thanks to all supporters and friends of the association; but while rejoicing in the signs of activity shown during the past year, it would point out that if the sphere of usefulness is to be enlarged in the future the means of support must first be forthcoming. Many of the poorer colonies still require help, and the Executive Committee therefore appeals once more to all members to aid in making known the value of the work that is being done.

By order of the Committee,  
CECILY DEBENHAM, Hon. Sec.

#### REPORT OF THE SCOTTISH BRANCH OF THE COLONIAL NURSING ASSOCIATION

*For the period from April 1st, 1900, to April 30th, 1901.*

It was hoped that the Scottish branch of the association would have been publicly started in the spring of last year, and to this end the co-operation was obtained of the Lord Provosts of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Dundee, but owing to extensive funds being started on behalf of the war in South Africa, and more especially in Edinburgh and Glasgow, both of which cities sent their own hospitals to the front, the president (Lady Balfour of Burleigh) was advised to delay the public start to a more opportune time, and when greater monetary support might be looked for. The president and the hon. secretary (Mr. A. A. Gordon, C.A.) did their utmost in a private way, and first formed a nursing committee to carry out preliminary interviews of nurse-candidates. This

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)