

at the neighbouring hospitals. One course of lectures is on 'The Moral Duties of a Nurse's Position.' The full course lasts two years, and pupils pay for their training, but can under special circumstances obtain assistance from the committee in the way of bursaries."

It is reported from South Africa that at the recent session of the Transkei General Council, Councillor Mazwi moved a resolution in favour of approaching the various Hospital Boards in the Native Territories with a request that opportunities be given for civilised and educated native women to obtain training as nurses. He dwelt upon the advantages to the community and to the nurses themselves, and pointed out that, as the Council made large grants to hospitals, it had a right to ask for something in return. In the course of the discussion, Councillor Hlikbla bore tribute to the kind way in which white ladies nursed the native sick. He said that, when in Kimberley Hospital, he had been better looked after than he could have been by his own parents. He thought very few of their own people would undertake the work. Eventually the motion was carried, after the Chairman had mentioned that the Umtata Hospital Board had already decided to arrange for taking native probationers.

We are glad that steps are being taken to secure the training of native women, for at best the nursing of any community by other than its own members can only be a temporary expedient. It is well always to put before natives in training that the white nurses are there only until they are self-dependant and reliable enough to take over the entire control of their own training schools.

We are specially glad to note the remark of Councillor Hlikbla as to the devotion of white ladies to the native sick. That the patient needs her care should be sufficient passport to the best attention a nurse can give. Race, creed, colour, all must vanish before the need that we are pledged to relieve, and this is evidently the view translated into practice by the nurses at the Kimberley Hospital. There is no surer way of establishing mutual understanding between coloured and white races than by the care given to the "inferior" race in sickness, by refined women, whose lives are often a revelation of what life may be to those who have not had the advantage of the privileges enjoyed for generations by the civilised races.

The appointment of twenty-six members of the staff of the Visiting Nurse Association, of Chicago, as officers of the juvenile court is, says *Charities and the Commons*, a step which is bound to awaken increasing interest. The procedure is a distinct innovation on both sides, the visiting nurses as aids to the court and the court conferring a power on a definite group of unpaid workers. In presenting the commissions to the nurses, Judge Mack said: "It seems particularly fitting that the nurses of your association should be given this added power in your work among the needy sick. Your duty in the capacity of visiting nurse is not only to nurse the body, but the mind and morals of every member of the homes to which your work calls you. You will be helpful adjuncts to the work of the court, and the court will also prove helpful to you in adjusting various conditions which are brought to your notice. As philanthropic workers you occupy a unique place in the nursing world."

In the Chicago juvenile court a large proportion of the delinquent and dependent children are found to be physically ill or defective. Without adding materially to the burdens of the nurse, who is already a visitor in her professional capacity to many of these families, this new authority increases her field of usefulness by giving her the power of a regular officer of the court. The large number of children under the care of the court and the inadequate force of paid and voluntary probation officers and workers, make it quite apparent that in cases of the physically ill children who are wards of the court the nurses will be able to relieve considerably the pressure upon these workers. The nurses will work in close touch with the regularly appointed probation officers, and will help them in every way they may desire. In fact, these two groups have worked in close harmony for the past year, and it was because of the knowledge of the voluntary helpful work of the nurses that the official recognition was given.

The commission given the nurses will also prove helpful in adjusting speedily many complications which arise in the homes to which the nurses are called. They can compel better care of neglected children, require them to be sent to school, or when necessary to the hospital. This power of the visiting nurses is not likely to be abused, as it is these situations they are accustomed to meet daily. The workers themselves consider their appointment of great value.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)