

Miss Annie Williamson, Chief Nurse of Camp Grant, reports of the second detachment of colored nurses, which was assigned to duty at that camp:—

"They were serious-minded, quiet, business-like young women, well qualified to take charge of wards had our colored patients been segregated."

The Development of Colored Health Centres.

One of the most useful pieces of work done by colored graduate nurses is the development of Negro Health Centres by and for the race by its far-sighted pioneers. Outstanding personalities in this connection are Mrs. Sadie Stewart Hobday, Tulsa, and Miss Williams at Tuskegu. "On Mrs. Hobday's way to the clinic which was to be her workshop, the director of the work showed her where the Negro Clinic used to be. In showing it a sad look came over her face and the newcomer realised that it had been swallowed up by that great monster, racial prejudice."

The National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses.

The Colored Graduate Nurses owe their organisation in a National Association to Miss Franklin, "a woman of keen vision, of much initiative, and of an unusual amount of executive ability and determination." Mrs. Carrie E. Bullock, R.N., President of the Association, has carried on the work in a most efficient way and the nurses have entered into the work of the Association whole heartedly.

Mrs. Thoms concludes by saying that if this history proves no other point, it is lasting evidence of the fact that "no doors are closed to the colored nurse who bears the key of adequate educational preparation. The work of the pathfinders has broken down barriers and built up confidences. To-day the colored nurse receives a cordial reception in educational groups, public health circles, and among administrators. She has made a place for herself as instructor in nursing schools, as teacher of hygiene in colleges, as health supervisor in public schools, as district worker, and public health nursing director. She is now utilised in the Government services, on the mission fields and in the factories of industry."

Verily an achievement for which all honour is due to the pathfinders.

"May this short history," says Mrs. Thoms, "of the early pathfinders encourage others to enter into the fuller, richer careers open to them; for every nurse who gives of her service is rewarded in terms of life's deeper satisfactions. She goes as a soldier loyal to her task, singled out by virtue of her training to help relieve the world of its greatest agonies."

The book is in the lending library of the British College of Nurses, 39, Portland Place, London, W., where it can be seen by Fellows and Members.

M. B.

A TEXTBOOK FOR MENTAL NURSES.*

In issuing a textbook for mental nurses Miss E. L. Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., has for her aim "to convey to the nurse, in the simplest language possible, the essential points in the bedside nursing of the mentally sick, and to provide the material necessary for the Preliminary and Final Nursing Certificates."

The Handbook for Mental Nurses published by the Royal Medico-Psychological Association supplies details of some surgical procedures, which Miss Macaulay therefore omits.

Otherwise her conveniently slim little book contains a comprehensive survey of nursing technique. A comparatively small but interesting and suggestive part deals with mental diseases. It was rather disappointing not to find more, but, as the Foreword by Dr. Wolsley Lewis mentions with approval, she "has been careful not to encroach on the province of the medical man."

There is a short summary of the evolution of treatment of the insane from the humane ideas of Egypt and Greece in the 5th century B.C. through the barbarous cruelty of the Middle Ages and later, to the skilled care of the present day.

All the technical subject matter of nursing procedures is lucid and carefully detailed. A full chapter on poisons and frequent warnings of suicidal tendencies in various types of patients are given. "You must always bear in mind that your patient is not responsible and therefore, greater precautions are all the more necessary."

Miss Macaulay dwells throughout on the paramount importance of sympathetic understanding of mental sufferers and kindly patience with them. "The nurse in a mental hospital has a much more anxious and strenuous time than her sister in a general or maternity hospital. She not only has all the physical symptoms to observe and treat, but also the mental aspect of the patient as well, which is of a much more exacting and trying nature than the former, requiring great qualities of heart and head."

"In dealing with any form of mental illness, it is the duty of the nurse first to gain her patient's confidence, making the patient feel that she is her friend and there to help her, so that when the patient is worried or does not feel so well mentally or physically, she will come and tell her of it. This is the greatest compliment that can be paid a nurse." It all makes one realise what a constant strain the work must be, and how necessary is a well-balanced character with high principles and a cheerful courage to those who would undertake it. "The presence of a good nurse has a powerful and uplifting influence in the ward, and a patient will live up to whatever standard a nurse sets her, and I would appeal to you to set a high one. If a nurse is satisfied with a low standard, the patient will invariably suffer in consequence."

K M L.

* Faber & Faber, Ltd., 24, Russell Square, London. Price 6/-.



MISS MARY E. MAHONEY.
The First Professional Colored Nurse.

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