

Mulago Hospital, Where One Thousand Africans are Treated Daily.

UGANDA'S capital, Kampala, is proud of her government hospital, Mulago. Its buildings, impressive for their size though not for their beauty, hold a thousand beds which are nearly always filled; its out-patients department deals with some thousand patients daily; and from its medical school come a regular flow of doctors to bring healing to disease-ridden Africa.

In the early part of the century the death rate in parts of Uganda was greater than the birth rate. The colonial medical service was barely sufficient to maintain the health of its civil servants, and the revenue of the Protectorate did not allow of any expansion. About that time a disastrous epidemic of sleeping sickness, which wiped out hundreds of thousands of people, focused attention on this, then, little known part of Africa.

A scientific expedition was sent to Uganda to study the medical situation consequent on the sleeping sickness epidemic. The findings of that expedition showed that, great though the sleeping sickness menace, that of syphilis was greater. This venereal disease was threatening to extinguish two of Uganda's principal tribes—the Baganda and the Banyoro.

Three medical officers in 1908 were seconded from the R.A.M.C. to organise a campaign against this menace and, with the building of their headquarters on Mulago hill, the present hospital came into being. Little but a centre from which Major Keane, one of the medical pioneers, could launch his scheme was then envisaged. The limiting factors were money and trained personnel. The calamity of the Great War solved the latter problem, for hundreds of African medical orderlies returned from the services, highly trained at no expense to the Protectorate. The discovery that the Uganda climate was very suitable for the growing of cotton solved the question of money; for with the fast-rising exports of cotton so the country's revenue grew rapidly. Now Mulago is one of the largest hospitals in Africa.

An important feature of the hospital is the medical school, which Makerere students can enter after a two-

years' science course. After doing two years' anatomy and physiology, followed by three years in the wards, a student can qualify for the Makerere Diploma in medicine, and thus become licensed as a medical practitioner in the Uganda government service. Africans with such qualifications are accorded the title of "doctor" in East Africa. It is the aim of the college so to improve the present diploma course that eventually the General Medical Council will admit holders of the Makerere diploma without further qualifications (which normally entail study in the United Kingdom) as at present. There are now 28 students taking the course. The cost of training each Makerere student is in the region

of £2,000, the greater part of which is paid by the government of the territory to which the student belongs.



A medical student examining a baby under the supervision of a European lady doctor at Mulago Hospital Out-patient's Department.

Nursing in the West Indies.

IRISH-BORN Miss Clare Fearon, Matron of the hospital at Point Fortin—a large oilfield and refinery centre in Trinidad—is one of the many ladies who adorn the Profession of Nursing.

She has lived in the West Indies since 1943 when she joined the Colonial Nursing Service as Matron of Barbados Hospital. In 1945, she took up her present appointment with Shell's Associate Company in Trinidad (United British Oilfields of Trinidad). The Company hospital at Point Fortin, which she describes as "one of the best and most up to date in the West

Indies," caters for the families of about 200 Senior oilfield staff, some 50 bachelors and the regional staff and their families, the total population at risk being nearly 4,000. The hospital is staffed by three resident British doctors; Miss Fearon and her English assistant supervise the nursing, which is carried out by 12 locally-trained West Indian, South African and Chinese nurses. There are 46 beds, including 15 private rooms, 2 large wards, a casualty block, a large out-patient department, a physiotherapy unit and dental surgery.

A new operating theatre and X-ray block have been opened and a resuscitation unit has been constructed for the reception of serious casualties. Miss Fearon reports that the number of these is not large since safety instruction and competitions were introduced.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)