

Other Business.

It was agreed that a letter of congratulation be sent to Miss Isobel Margaret Hutton, B.A., S.R.N., M.B.C.N., Sister Tutor of Queen Elizabeth's Colonial Nursing Service, Nurses' Training College, Gold Coast, on her being awarded the M.B.E. in the King's New Year honours.

Concerning articles published in the Press relating to the treatment of patients in hospitals there was considerable discussion which it was decided would be referred to the Council.

It gave the Council great pleasure to have present with them Miss Frances Burchell, a Fellow from S. Australia who was formerly Matron, Rue Rua Hospital, South Australia, and President Florence Nightingale International Foundation for Australia.

The Meeting then terminated.



Miss Isobel Margaret Hutton,
M.B.E., B.A., S.R.N., M.B.C.N.

News from Rhodesia.

AMONG OUR MANY INTERESTING letters from overseas, one of our early members sends very welcome, and descriptive news of her experience in Africa: "I was so delighted with the Christmas card I received at Christmas time—the picture of Peter Pan—how it brings back 'home' memories! Thank you so much for thinking of me. I don't think I can have written since I left Jo'burg. Thank you for continuing to send the JOURNAL.

" This part of the country is known as the copper belt. There are six to eight copper mines within a radius of 50 miles, and each mine has its own European hospital as well as African hospitals. Twenty-five years ago this part was all 'bush,' undeveloped, and all the big game living in their natural surroundings. Now this mine township has a population of about 10,000 people, a big residential district of mine houses, and we have every sports facility you can think of—a swimming bath, tennis courts, badminton, bowls, football and polo.

" As this is a Government Township, there is a main-street where there are four large department stores where we can buy just anything—mostly British goods—not so many American goods as in the Union.

" The hospital has from 40-50 beds, and of course we nurse everything—malaria, spotted fever and mumps, down to the slightest, simple ailments; of course mine accidents; we have a tiny maternity department. We can't segregate and nurse in the ideal way as in England!—but I think the work is very good.

" There is no shortage of drugs or worry of expense where the hospital is concerned. Our houses are all 'gauzed,' so there is no fear of mosquitoes, and few flies in the hospitals or houses. Everywhere is sprayed regularly with D.D.T., it is simply wonderful. In fact when I first came I didn't see a fly for over a week, I couldn't believe it!

" This mine is owned by the Anglo-American Corporation—very wealthy—as you will see if you look down the shares for copper! However, that has nothing to do with me.

" One of the first things I did was to buy a bicycle, not being able to afford a car. The roads are flat, and the main roads tarred, and the climate too hot to enjoy walking, on a bicycle one gets a breeze.

" There are two cinemas here with change of programme three times a week. There always seems to be something on; there is a dramatic society, and there are concerts—the children do wonders in dancing.

" I miss the London life though, and the theatres—one does get to feel shut in sometimes. The country round about is uninteresting—all the same—bush, bush, bush, and the game has receded.

" The climate is sub-tropical. The winter when I arrived was lovely—sunshine every day and not too hot, with cool nights.

" There is no twilight; now we are in the middle of summer and the rainy season. I have never seen anything like the way the rain tumbles down! It certainly freshens the air, but they say we have had more than our share this year!

" I hope things are not too bad at home now.

" What a wonderful recovery the King has made—we should be very thankful.

" With all good wishes for 1952 and very many thanks."

C. P.

A 2s. 6d. Fee for Three Operations.

South African hospitals have to cope with some curious cases. One came to light recently through a police court prosecution of a native labourer charged with culpable homicide.

A 14 year old black boy had died at Frere Hospital, East London, from tetanus, result of a tribal custom of amputating the first joint of the right little finger.

The man was alleged to have used a rusty piece of hoop-iron, and then applied powdered rat-droppings. The lad's father said that he had offered to pay defendant half-a-crown to operate on three of his sons. He still owed 6d. of the fee. About a week after the amputations, two lads were taken ill, one dying. The third felt no ill-effects.

Another son said he had held his younger brothers while defendant sawed off the tip of their fingers with a bit of iron.

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