



Our Foreign Letters.

FRONTIER HOSPITAL, QUEENSTOWN, CAPE COLONY,
SOUTH AFRICA.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—My object in addressing you is of a twofold nature—partly to let your readers know something of our hospital, and partly to say a word concerning the Matron, Sister Alice, whose services, consequent on her approaching marriage, the Frontier Hospital is about to lose.

When I tell you I am in no way connected with either the hospital or parish of SS. Michael and All Angels, you may very naturally ask who is your correspondent. I am a priest of the Church of England, have been more than thirty years in this country, and properly speaking am a missionary to the heathen in Kaffirland, where, until very recently, I have lived since 1862. I was present and took part in the laying of the foundation stone of this hospital in 1876; since then it has been built and enlarged, until it now assumes its present handsome and picturesque appearance. I enclose two photographs—one showing what the hospital was in 1889 when Sister Alice entered, and the other as it is now in 1895 when she leaves it.

In response to a petition the Colonial Government made a grant of £2,000 to go towards defraying expenses incurred in erecting a Nurses' Home. The hospital itself consists of two buildings connected by a corridor; to the extreme right has been added the above-mentioned Nurses' Home. As its name implies, it is specially for the benefit of Nurses connected with the hospital. Of these there are five, of which the Matron is one. I cannot but think the number far below the requirements. According to hospital reports nearly two hundred indoor patients are admitted annually. As a matter of fact the Matron is the only qualified Nurse on the staff; all working under her, although called "Nurses," are really pupils. During Sister Alice's term of office six such pupils have passed from here as Nurses to the Kimberley or Diamond Fields Hospital, and are doing well.

I see by a late Frontier Hospital report it is hinted that "the Nurses' Home, when required, can be utilized for hospital purposes without necessitating any alterations." Surely after granting £2,000 for a special purpose, Government will not consent to such unfair treatment on the part of the executive towards these overworked Nurses. This home is really a very compact, comfortable little place, consisting of nine rooms, including ordinary reception room, Matron's reception room, dining room, five bed rooms and Matron's office. The hospital staff, exclusive of medical officers, consists of one Matron and Professional Nurse, four pupils and nine servants.

Sister Alice some six years ago was appointed

Matron and Professional Nurse, and during that period has given unqualified satisfaction to not only the executive connected with the hospital, but also to the hundreds of patients who have been recipients of its benefits during her term of office.

Saturday, July 6th, 1895.—Since writing the above, Sister Alice has been married. The wedding took place last Wednesday in the presence of a few specially invited guests in the Board Room at the request of the Sister. H. Tiffin, Esq., Chairman of Hospital Committee, gave her away. The four Nurses were bridesmaids. The Rev. J. P. Rande performed the ceremony. All the servants, and of the patients, as many as could (natives as well as Europeans) were present. The Hospital Executive, in addition to a purse of £10 10s., defrayed expenses of reception after the wedding, provided a suitable spread for patients and servants, and have requested to be furnished with a photograph of Sister Alice, which they intend to have enlarged and placed in the operation room as a memento of their first Matron and Professional Nurse. On the day of the wedding some fifty telegrams and letters were received from all parts of the Colony and beyond. Of the presents, I see by a list just sent me by her sister (Miss Perring), the Nurses past and present subscribed a silver tea service, three five-o'clock tea-cloths and a tea-table. The servants, all natives, presented her with an occasional or drawing-room chair. Presents as serviceable as they were suitable came from friends in Cape Town, East London and Kimberley; from Bloemfontein in the Orange Free State, Johannesburg in the Transvaal, and many other places too numerous to mention.

Trusting my communication may be of some interest to your readers,

I remain,

My dear Madam,

Very faithfully yours,

FRED. PATTEN.

THE "DOCTORS' DAUGHTERS."

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN SAN FRANCISCO.

IN San Francisco there is a society of ladies, young and old, known as the "Doctors' Daughters," a title which by no means implies that the members are related to physicians, as the Society is made up of women of all classes of society and belonging both to the tradesman and the professional ranks. The name simply means that those who belong are in sympathy with and interested in the art of healing, and with the methods taken to relieve the sick. They are also especially intent on learning the most approved methods of caring for wounded and injured persons until they can be taken to a house or a Hospital and placed under the care of a physician. The "Doctors' Daughters" were instrumental in securing to the city of San Francisco the ambulance employed in the service of the City Receiving Hospital. They are also aware that scientific handling of the wounded or injured persons picked up in the public streets is just as essential as is an ambulance, until he can be delivered at the Hospital. Policemen, especially those employed in the Far West, are not generally skilled in the art of handling and removing the injured, and for this reason this body of enterprising women has banded together to help to relieve the sufferings entailed on the victims

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