



VOLK'S HOSPITAL, BLOEMFONTEIN, ORANGE FREE STATE, SOUTH AFRICA.

Our Foreign Readers.

NOT the least pleasant result of our Editorship of the NURSING RECORD has been the correspondence, and in many instances the subsequent friendship, with our readers in distant lands, and we are glad to reckon amongst our friends Matrons and Nurses in America, Canada, Australia, Africa, Asia, India, and New Zealand. Wherever the British flag floats, and, in many instances, in places where it does not float, there the RECORD sooner or later finds its way, and we value much the expressions of goodwill and appreciation, and further, the very substantial help, in the way of interesting information for our columns, which find their way from all parts of the world into the Editorial letter-box.

The engraving which we give above represents the Volk's Hospital, Bloemfontein, the photograph of which has been kindly sent to us by the Matron, Miss Amy Gething. Miss Gething, who is a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association and a Registered Nurse, was trained at the Kimberley Hospital, and for this

reason, as well as because she was born in the colony, her appointment to the Volk's Hospital was a most popular one. Colonials rejoiced that the *first* Matron of the *first* State Hospital should be one of themselves and not an outsider. Another important qualification which Miss Gething possesses, is that she can speak both Dutch and English with equal facility.

The Hospital was opened on November 1st, 1893, and met a long-felt want, as up to that time the only Hospital accommodation provided for the colony was that of St. George's Hospital, better known as the Cottage Hospital, which is under the care of the St. Michael's Sisterhood.

During the session of the Volksraad in 1892, under the presidency of H. H. Staats-President Keitz, it was decided that the time had come when a State Hospital should be built. A site was selected out on the veldt at the foot of a mountain just a mile from the city of Bloemfontein. The cost of erecting the Hospital was £5,000. A yearly income of £1,200 a year is assured to it by a Government grant, and this is supplemented by the payments of better class patients. When the Hospital was first opened there were 28 beds. Since

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