

then 4 more have been added, so that at the present time the Hospital can accommodate 22 Europeans, 4 native women, and 6 native men. The bedsteads are after the pattern approved by Mr. Lawson Tait, and were sent out from England. The operation-table is one made by Down Bros., and this fact is a guarantee of its excellence. All the surgical appliances and fittings for the theatre were also supplied by English makers.

The Hospital Staff consists of the Matron, Miss Gething, who, we are pleased to learn, has been a regular subscriber to the NURSING RECORD since the first number was issued, and takes a keen interest in Nursing politics. Working under her are a staff Nurse, a junior Nurse, three Probationers, and a housekeeper. Native boys assist in the general house-work.

The medical staff attached to the Hospital consist of a Resident Medical Officer and a Railway Surgeon. There is also a visiting staff, the members of which attend their own special patients.

All kinds of cases are admitted, but those of enteric fever are the most frequent. During the six months from October, 1895, to April, 1896, 83 cases of enteric fever were admitted. Out of this number 70 recovered. Of the deaths which took place, four occurred within 24 hours of admission.

The wards are on the ground floor, and all open on to the Stoep. This enables the beds, with the patients in them, to be drawn out from the wards, which in a hot climate is both refreshing and necessary.

The Nurses' quarters are on the first floor. There are no houses within a mile of the Hospital, which stands quite alone. The grounds which enclose it are being laid out at the present time, and bid fair in time to be a pretty and well cultivated oasis on the barren veldt.

The opening of this new Hospital at Bloemfontein is interesting, as affording another proof of the need for increased Hospital accommodation, and, as an inevitable sequelæ, the opening for really good trained Nurses, which we are informed on good authority exists in South Africa. It stands to reason that where fresh tracts of country are being rapidly opened up to civilisation as is the case here, that Europeans are to

be found in not inconsiderable numbers in places in which no provision for the care of the sick has hitherto been made. We hear that Nurses are leaving the South, where the supply is abundant, and the remuneration for their services in proportion to the demand for them, and "trekking" for the interior, where a skilled Nurse is a *rara avis*, and can command really good fees. We would remind our readers, however, that they should make very certain that a definite appointment exists for them before they embark on a voyage to the Cape and a journey up country. Also that not every really efficient Nurse is suitable for "roughing it" in new districts removed from civilisation. If she is to succeed she must set out in the spirit of Mark Tapley, with a determination not to be overborne by circumstances but to surmount



MISS AMY H. GETHING

them, a reserve of dogged endurance, and a sense of humour which will many times stand her in good stead. She must also remember that she will have to tax her ingenuity to provide appetising food for her patients when the resources at her command are of the slenderest, and the invalid's food has to be cooked for the most part by her own hands. Given these qualifications, however, we believe that the opening exists for good Nurses.

We take the opportunity of thanking Miss Gething for the information she has so kindly sent us, and which we feel sure will be of interest to our readers.

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