

THE *African Critic* is a great supporter of Mr. Rhodes, and fights his detractors tooth and nail, and the following extract which it publishes from a letter from the Colossus to Mother Jacoba of the Bulawayo Hospital, certainly redounds to his credit:—

"I am planting one hundred orange trees at Government house, and wish you to accept for your patients ten per cent. of the fruit as a servitude on the trees. Naturally, it will be several years before the trees make any return; but time passes very speedily, and I think the idea is a good one, and may be adopted by others. Among the Egyptians a certain number of trees and gardens were set apart for the support of the temples, and I venture to say there is no better temple than that over which you preside. I think, too, your patients will more appreciate fresh plucked fruit than that which has been brought many hundred miles. If you obtain, as I hope, a servitude over many homes, it will be a pleasure to think that it is due to a passing thought."

If all millionaires paid a tithe of ten per cent. for the use of the sick and needy, no doubt they would be more popular as a class than they are.

THE question of the need for some control and supervision of midwives was recently discussed by the American Medical Association in Philadelphia, when Dr. Bacon, of Chicago, who introduced the subject, declared that four-fifths of all the obstetric cases in that city were managed by untrained midwives. Another medical gentleman present expressed the opinion that there was a place for the educated midwife, as the average physician could not afford the time necessary to give the proper care to prolonged obstetric cases. It was also thought that trained midwives should be licensed, in order to compel untrained women to relinquish practising in this capacity. It is interesting to notice that the same difficulties are occurring on both sides of the Atlantic. While fully realizing and advocating the necessity of legislation for obstetric workers, we hope that this will be carried out on statesmanlike lines. We have always deprecated legislation for midwives, as such, on the same grounds that a medical man would object to the registration of physicians, surgeons, obstetricians, or any other specialists. We hold that a general training should always precede a special one, in the same way that a medical man is obliged to hold a double qualification, even if he intends to practise as a specialist, and that no woman should be registered, or allowed to practise as a midwife, who has not had experience in general nursing also; but we should welcome, and cordially support, any bill for the registration of surgical, medical, and obstetric nurses. We hope that American nurses, who are organizing their profession on a wise and broad basis, will educate public opinion on this most important matter.

## The Hospital World.

### ROYAL INFIRMARY, ABERDEEN.

THE new Medical Block of the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, which has been built in commemoration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, is now approaching completion, and in a few weeks will be ready for occupation. The block is 200 feet long and four storeys high. In common with the other new blocks the building is of grey granite, hammer blocked, with picked dressings, and it is furnished and equipped in the most approved fashion. The wards for males are at the north end of the building, and those for females at the south end. On the ground floor and the first and second floors are two wards, each having beds for thirteen patients. The kitchen, the duty room, linen room, staff lavatory, and other offices are in the corridor, between the wards, besides two isolation wards, one for men, and one for women. On each floor also is a physician's room, and one for the sister in charge. The fourth floor is arranged to accommodate eight patients, as an erysipelas ward. The floors of all the wards are laid with pitch pine blocks, laid on concrete, the special features being that the blocks are set in a strongly adhesive liquid substance, and screwed into blocks inserted in the cement. The corners of the walls, as well as the jointure of the walls with the floor and the ceiling, are rounded. The windows are of the plan known as "nap revolving," by which the frame revolves on a pivot at the sides. They can consequently be cleaned with ease by any one standing on the floor of the ward.

The whole building is lighted with electric light, a fact which should be appreciated by the probationers, whose duty it usually is in less modern hospitals to light up in the evening. On all the floors, at each end of the block, is a sitting room for convalescent patients, a need which is frequently overlooked in the planning of a hospital. Convalescent patients are also enabled to enjoy fresh air upon the balconies which run along the west side of the building, overlooking the hospital central yard. Under this central yard is a well-lighted tunnel which connects the new buildings with the Surgical Block. The bath rooms are planned upon the latest principles, and it is worthy of notice that the baths can be filled, to the overflow valve, in thirty seconds, and completely emptied in forty. The architects of the new block are Messrs. W. & J. Smith & Kelly, and they are to be congratulated upon the result achieved, as are also the Governors of the Infirmary, and those citizens, whose liberality and loyalty have inspired them to provide the funds for a memorial in every way worthy of the great occasion which it commemorates.

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