

We do not wonder therefore that most of the nurses prefer to return to England.

THE First Annual Meeting of the subscribers and friends of the Victoria Nurses' Institute, Cape Town, was held in the Metropolitan Hall, which was beautifully decorated with banners and flowers, on Saturday, October 22nd. The chair was taken by Sir Gordon Sprigg, and the seats on the platform were occupied by Lady Goodenough, Lady Sprigg, and the members of the Committee.

THE Report, read by the President, Mrs. Rose Innes, was of extreme interest. After showing that the Institute was founded in commemoration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, it emphasised the need which was felt before its foundation for a centre from which the public could obtain nurses with the least possible delay. No register of nurses existed in Cape Town except very imperfect lists kept by certain firms of chemists. The Institute, therefore, started in the first place a Register for certificated nurses, whose certificate entitled them to be examined by the Colonial Medical Council. It next opened a home for trained nurses, under the superintendence of Miss Martha Miller, who launched the scheme with whole-hearted enthusiasm, and has given her valuable services for the first eighteen months.

THIS part of the work will probably be in the future self-supporting, but other work has opened out; the poor of Cape Town have begged for District Nurses, and two are already at work. Others, however, are needed, and though most of the patients can and do pay something, supplementary aid will be needed from the well-to-do.

THE need for maternity nurses is also very great, and in the near future the Institute hopes to start a Maternity Hospital with public wards, and private rooms, which will be of the utmost benefit to the women of Cape Town, and will also be a school for the training of maternity nurses.

WE congratulate the Institute on the work it has done in the past, which has proved, as the Chairman remarked in his opening address, how well work is performed by women, and we foresee, in the future, wide avenues of usefulness opening before the Victoria Nurses' Institute.

A LETTER was read from Dr. Stevenson expressing warm appreciation of the work of the Institute, and also speaking strongly of the necessity for the proposed Maternity Hospital. No other country in the civilized world existed without one, and it was a "disgrace," and a "crying shame" that they had none. He trusted that the matter might be taken up. Its success was as sure as the

promised land, and the good it would do was incontestable.

WE hope that in designing a building as a Maternity Hospital, however, it will be arranged not, as it is at present suggested, with general wards, but with a number of small wards, none of which should, in our opinion, contain more than two beds. The great benefits of this plan are: (1) that the patients are isolated, and therefore, should any cause for anxiety occur on account of a patient developing a high temperature, or other symptoms of a suspicious nature, the anxiety is limited to that patient, whereas, if it should prove that the symptoms are of a septic nature, there will be every reason, in a general ward, to fear infection for the other patients. (2) Small wards can, and should be, disinfected after each case. (3) If the patients are nursed in general wards, this necessitates the confinements taking place in a room set apart for this purpose, and the speedy removal of the patients as soon as the event has occurred in order to make room for others. This cannot be so good for them as remaining undisturbed. If the wards do not contain more than two beds then a new case can always be admitted into a ward where the second bed is unoccupied, and subsequently a convalescent patient can be moved into the ward.

WHEN the details of the plans of the proposed hospital come to be thought out no doubt these points will occur to the designers.

WE may, perhaps, further express the hope that the future Matron of the Hospital will have an opportunity of expressing her views as to the plans, more especially in relation to the position of lavatories, the cupboard room, and the arrangement of the domestic offices. It not infrequently happens that hospitals are built, for want of expert feminine criticism, with no regard to the need of linen cupboards, storage for surplus mattresses, the disposal of patients' clothes, larger accommodation in connection with the wards, and many other details which are most necessary, but which are apt to escape the attention of the "mere male," and later much expense has to be incurred to remedy these defects.

MANY devoted nurses have fallen, by the way, victims to over-strain and typhoid fever who have been working in the terrible American military hospitals since the war. Their loss is realised and grieved for throughout the States.

NEXT week "Our American Letter," will deal with Military Nursing in the late Hispano-American War, and will be found extremely interesting.

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