

behalf of the Nottingham Children's Hospital, have sent us post-cards promising their help. We are glad to say that the 30 red flannel jackets which we mentioned as an acceptable gift have already been promised. We still hope for many more post-cards announcing further promises of contributions.

A pleasant custom at the Lewisham Infirmary is the annual re-union of the graduate nurses, which takes place at the time of the patients' Christmas entertainment, and is one which is much appreciated by former nurses who welcome the opportunity of re-visiting their training school.

AN interesting lecture on the betterment of the white man's life in West Africa was given last week by Miss Mary Kingsley at the Livingstone Exhibition at St. Martin's Town Hall. She strongly urged, in this connection, the claims of the Colonial Nursing Association, which she characterized as a noble scheme to stop the waste of life which went on in the tropics, and which, therefore, should be supported both for Imperial and sympathetic reasons. At present, Miss Kingsley considers that there is not one condition of life in West Africa which cannot be improved. With regard to the benefits of trained nursing, she thought, only those who had had the opportunity of making personal observations could realize the benefit of scientific doctors and good nurses in West Africa.

SHE then proceeded to advocate the establishment of a hospital cruiser on the coast carrying a proper staff of doctors and nurses. Branch hospitals on shore should work in connection with this vessel to deal with those patients who could not immediately be got on board, but they should always be sent on to the ship as soon as possible.

As an alternative scheme, Miss Kingsley suggested that the mail steamers trading with West Africa should be fitted with hospital cabins, and carry trained nurses.

SHE also suggested that trained male nurses should be sent out to the Hinterland stations. At present, very little could be done for the men in up-country stations, but it seemed a reproach to those at home that many a man's life was wrecked and many a death caused for the want of a little nursing. Then there should be a good hospital nursing staff at Sierra Leone, so that invalids might be cared for and made strong enough to face the trade winds encountered on the journey home. The nursing staff should be a double one, one set being at home, while the

other was on duty, and there should be a few extra ones to spare. A greater amount of leave was necessary for nurses than for Government officials, because their life in hospital was more dangerous to health.

MISS KINGSLEY drew attention to the fact that nurses who might be suitable for work at home were not necessarily suitable for Africa. Their usefulness depended very much upon the kind of women they were. Lastly, in addition to good nursing, she impressed upon her audience the need for good cooking, which, as all nurses know, plays a most important part in aiding the recovery of their patients.

At the Annual Meeting of the nurses and friends of the Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow, held recently, Mr. Cameron Corbett, M.P., in wishing those present a happy New Year, expressed his warm appreciation of the work of trained nurses. He said that those who took a superficial view of human life, imagine it would be best to try to associate with the healthy and the happy, and to always seek the sunniest climes appropriate to the season of the year. As a matter of practical experience, nearly all of them had found that those who had the keenest sympathy with suffering, those who had associated most with it, had had this splendid compensation, that association with suffering, where people were doing all they could to alleviate it, brought joy all its own, in which there was much to counterbalance all the depressing circumstances around. Those who had had the opportunity of meeting with those who sought in every possible way to surround themselves with happiness had found them to be most miserable human beings. He had had many opportunities of having trained nurses in his own house, and he could say in all sincerity, without a shadow of doubt, that not one had looked upon the work in any ordinary mechanical sense, but all for the time being became the devoted friends of the family in entire self-sacrifice, devoting themselves to their mission of kindness and affection. With such an experience it would be impossible for one to feel otherwise than enthusiastically grateful to that great class, or otherwise than disposed to wish them in the very heartiest sense a happy New Year.

IN these days, when nurses are subjected to much adverse criticism, such words from one who speaks from personal knowledge are welcome.

THE midwives of Berlin are very strictly controlled by the paternal government of that city, and the medical officers to the police have them

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