

Cooper was warmly congratulated on their home-like aspect.

Miss Rentie, dispenser at the Royal Infirmary, Perth has received instructions to join the hospital corps in South Africa.

The Government of Adelaide, South Australia, are considering legislation for "improved hospital administration," and recently the Attorney-General introduced into the Legislative Council a Bill to provide for the management of the Adelaide Hospital which was greeted with cheers. The Bill provides:—

"From and after the coming into operation of this Act—1. The Hospitals Act, 1867, shall not apply to the Hospital. 2. The Hospitals Act Amendment Act, 1884, shall be repealed. 3. The present Board of Management and all honorary officers of the hospital shall cease to hold office." The other provisions are:— Clause 4: "The management and control of the hospital shall be vested in the Chief Secretary." Clause 5: "The appointment and dismissal of all medical and other officers, nurses, and attendants of the Hospital shall be vested in the Governor." Clause 6: "The Governor may, by proclamation—1. Constitute a Board of Management of the Hospital, consisting of such number of persons as he may think proper. 2. Appoint any person to be members of such Board. 3. Determine the period during which the members of such Board shall hold office. 4. Appoint such persons as he may think proper to be visitors to the Hospital. 5. Determine the period during which such visitors shall hold office." Clause 7: "The Board of Management, when appointed, shall, subject to the provisions of section 4 hereof, have the management and control of the Hospital." Clause 8: "The Governor may by proclamation make regulations for all or any of the following purposes, namely: 1. For prescribing the powers and duties and regulating the proceedings of the Board of Management. 2. For prescribing the powers and duties of visitors to the Hospital. 3. For regulating the admission of patients into the Hospital and of their discharge therefrom. 4. For the relief of outdoor patients. 5. For the maintenance of order, discipline, decency, and cleanliness among the inmates of the Hospital. 6. For prescribing the duties of the several officers of the Hospital, and for keeping proper records, books, accounts, and vouchers. 7. For regulating the study of surgery and medicine by students. 8. For all matters affecting the general management, care, control, and superintendence of the Hospital. 9. For prescribing penalties for breaches of the regulations not exceeding the sum of £10 for any one breach, to be recovered summarily before a Special Magistrate or two Justices of the Peace." The remaining two clauses deal with the regulations.

The duties of the Governor appear to be so all-embracing, that there will be few duties left to the Board of Management. Surely, the average Colonial Governor will find the selection of medical men and nurses, and the regulation of the studies of medical students a task beyond his powers.

We greatly regret to record the death of Civil Surgeon J. Prestwick from pneumonia in the General Hospital, Howick, Natal, on August 28th.

Professional Review.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR HOSPITALS.

The paper by Mr. Murray Guthrie, M.P., on the "South African War Hospitals," which appears in the current issue of the *Nineteenth Century*, has been widely noticed in the Press, and coming as it does at the psychological moment, it cannot fail to attract much attention.

Mr. Murray Guthrie only casually visited the base hospitals at Cape Town, Naauwport, De Aar, and Kimberley, and therefore does not discuss them, but speaks warmly of the success of the Yeomanry Hospital at Dielfontein. Passing on to Bloemfontein, he vouches for the truth of a statement made by Mr. Burdett-Coutts, and alluded to by Mr. Balfour in the House of Commons on June 29th, in the following way: "My hon. friend (Mr. Burdett-Coutts) had a harrowing story of eight wounded men left on the platform at Bloemfontein. It is a horrible thing to contemplate. It makes one's blood run cold. But before we condemn the doctors (and I suppose they were the responsible persons for that at Bloemfontein) I think we ought to hear their case, and, the more so, as it is manifestly difficult to get at the truth in these matters." Here is the version of this "harrowing story," concerning the truth of which Mr. Balfour is so sceptical, told to Mr. Guthrie by the private in charge of the party and corroborated by those members of it who were in a condition to speak, and vouched for also by the Rev. J. Almerid, Chaplain to the Royal Canadian Regiment. A convoy of sick from Kroonstadt and other places arrived at Virginia Siding on a Monday evening. They were put in an open truck and left for Bloemfontein early next morning, where they arrived in the small hours of Wednesday morning. Among them were eight cases of fever, mostly enteric. They were in charge of two privates, themselves invalids. They were sent off without any provisions, the men in charge being told they would be given milk at Smaldeel, a station lower down the line. Here they were given two tins of condensed milk. Happily two nursing sisters who saw the truck on a siding outside Bloemfontein on the morning of the 23rd, gave the men a bottle of brandy, two tins of condensed milk, and two tins of extract of beef. Then Mr. Guthrie takes up the tale as follows:—

"At six o'clock that morning I noticed the truck lying outside the station just beyond my office, and at half-past six it was shunted alongside the platform.

"At about ten o'clock, nothing having been done, I drew the attention of the railway staff-officer to the fact, and between us we got the men lifted out and placed in a row on the platform, where they were given some milk and bovril.

"The railway staff-officer then sent a messenger to the Principal Medical Officer (General Wilson), who, it is only fair to state, had just arrived at Bloemfontein from the south, and was in no way responsible for the arrangements, or rather lack of arrangements, to advise him of the circumstances.

"On returning to the station at about a quarter to two, I found the men still there—most of them in a state of utter collapse, their lips black and swollen, and several of them in a semi-unconscious condition.

"I immediately jumped on my pony and rode off to

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