

Africa, so we availed ourselves of a chat with her, as we have faith in information at first hand.

Miss Couch worked as a Sister at Kimberley Hospital for five years, and was warm in praise of the fine pioneer work done by Sister Henrietta during the eighteen years she was Head of the Hospital. But new men, new methods, and upon the retirement of Sister Henrietta, the work of the hospital extended in various ways. Kimberley is recognised as the leading and best training school in South Africa, and Miss Couch speaks in the highest terms of the good material to be found amongst the young women who come to be trained, and is of opinion that the future nurses of South Africa should be culled from colonials, who are, of course, acclimatised and understand the difficult domestic surroundings. Many well trained nurses who go out from England are most dissatisfied, and seem quite incapable of adapting themselves to the fresh environment. We were told that "No woman is of any use in the colonies until she can go into the kitchen and cook the dinner. It is almost impossible to get good white servants, and the natives just go off when they think they will."

There is, in Miss Couch's opinion, an ample supply of trained nurses just now in South Africa, as so many of the Army Nurses intend to settle in the country after the war. They have been made so much of, taught to ride, and otherwise provided with many pleasures which they do not enjoy at home, that it appears likely that many Reserve Sisters will not willingly return and settle down to their comparatively humdrum surroundings in England.

Miss Gordon, late Matron of Kimberley Hospital, has opened a fine Home Hospital in Port Elizabeth, and we are glad to hear is doing well; also Miss Williams, late of the Registered Nurses' Society, is winning golden opinions for her work as Matron of the Provincial Hospital in the same town. It is pleasant to hear good accounts of old friends in these trying times. Miss Couch went through a tremendously busy time during the siege of Kimberley, and fortunately came through it all without a day's illness. She now wears the medal of St. John of Jerusalem and the Kimberley siege medal, and will no doubt get the War Medal by and bye. She is returning to South Africa in a fortnight's time.

A fine new Nurses' Home will soon be erected on the site of the old Shrubbery, next to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, the ground having been purchased by the Committee, and the funds for building generously donated by the Earl of Leicester.

We observe with very deep regret that the Committee appointed to organize this scheme ordained in 1898, "that the new building should be utilised for the accommodation of well-trained nurses, to be employed in outside private nursing, their earnings to go to the general funds of the institution," and we protest earnestly against any such arrangement being carried into effect, and hope the Earl of Leicester will use his influence to prevent the earnings of well trained nurses being absorbed by the Committee of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, for the unjustifiable uses of so-called public charity. If the wealthy county of Norfolk cannot support its county hospital, without inaugurating a system of nurse sweating, it is surely a very disgraceful condition of affairs. It is simply outrageous that the earnings of trained nurses, whose work is so arduous and exhausting, should be taken from them by men of wealth to support the charitable institution which they control. Every penny a nurse can earn in her working days is insufficient to keep her in comfort in her old age. What then is to be the future of those unfortunate nurses who are paid a miserable salary by hospital committees who do not hesitate to sweat their labour. We see nothing before such women but the Workhouse, and we condemn the system as cruel and demoralising. Let Lord Leicester see to it, that no such iniquitous system is inaugurated in the county of which he is Lord Lieutenant, and the King a county magnate. It is almost incredible that certificated nurses should undertake work on such a basis. We would they had more moral fibre.

A sad accident occurred recently to a party of soldiers, who, invalided from South Africa, were staying at Syracusa Convalescent Home, Torquay. With Mrs. Beckett, the Matron of the Home, they were returning from a picnic in a charabanc, when in turning a sharp corner, the vehicle was overturned. All the party sustained minor injuries, while Mrs. Beckett was seriously hurt, having a leg and arm fractured. The entertainer of the party, the son of a visitor to Torquay, is also suffering from a fractured clavicle.

A singular misadventure in Selly Oak Infirmary was investigated by the coroner last week. Ann Dolley, a bedridden inmate, ninety-one years of age, was daily rubbed with methylated spirits to prevent bed-sores, and the nurse, in mistake, a fortnight ago, used a bottle containing pure carbolic acid. Dolley complained of severe pain, but apparently got better. She, however, died ten days afterwards. The medical officer thought death might have been accelerated by the accident, and the jury returned a verdict of "Natural causes," but directed the coroner to severely cen-

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