

conduct. They urged the Council, for the sake of other licensed midwives' professional status, to grant an inquiry which would either clear the midwife in question, or suspend her license for a period. After a fortnight the Council answered by a facetious inquiry as to whether the midwives were prepared to write the death certificates themselves for the women who they stated died shortly after childbirth; and after a lapse of several weeks came another letter saying the Council could not listen to any request of the kind from midwives. Yet if a doctor reports a midwife to the Council she is at once suspended without any inquiry for three, six, or nine months. What is wanted is representation on the Council. Again, on nursing questions. A clause in the Act provides that the Council's certificate may be given to any foreign nurse who has been trained for three years by any training school which the Council may consider competent to train, and who holds the certificate of that body. But this "competence" in the eyes of the Council appears to me to be absolutely capricious. Now an Edinburgh Royal Infirmary nurse is refused her license and registration, now a Leicester nurse, a Birmingham General Hospital nurse, a Ryde Infirmary nurse, while, again, nurses from obscure and petty training schools are passed. A nurse on the Council could lay the different training in different schools before the Council, and advise them on the subject.

Again, nurses have petitioned Parliament, and written privately to the Council, asking that three years' training may be the standard—even Royalty has addressed the Council on the subject on behalf of South African Nurses—but, for a year, one year's training was all they required; then, for seven years, only two. The wishes of nurses and Matrons were wholly disregarded, but in 1899 a doctor in the Council brought the subject forward. It was passed at once, approved by the Governor, and forthwith became law. A representative nurse on the Council could have done it from the first. No doubt the tendency of the Council is to make all persons pass the Cape examinations, whatever their previous history has been; as an M.A. of Oxford has to pass certain Cape examinations before he can enter the Civil Service, and it would cause less friction to say so fairly than to reject nurse after nurse, who has held good positions in England, on some trivial point or other.

The great aim of nurses should be that no private nursing institution should be allowed to send out an unregistered nurse, and no hospital receiving a Government grant should be allowed to employ any woman as Matron or Sister who is unregistered. But this cannot be while registration is made so difficult and worrying to nurses, and until they are represented by a trained nurse holding a midwifery qualification on the Council."

The larger hospitals, such as the Kimberley Hospital, and the Provincial Hospital, Bulawayo, Rhodesia, prepare pupils for the Cape Government examination of nurses, for which they may enter candidates who have received three years' training in the wards of the hospital. Certificates are no longer granted by individual schools, as the Medical Council have rescinded the authority to issue certificates formerly permitted to hospital authorities.

Some of the South African hospitals are fine buildings, such as the New Somerset Hospital, Cape Town,

where there is a training school for nurses in charge of the All Saints Sisters, and the Johannesburg Hospital, which has 300 beds. The Memorial Hospital, Bulawayo, has, I am informed, an excellent up-to-date theatre, adjoining which are an anaesthetic room, and a small room in which a Rontgen Ray apparatus is fitted. This has been much used recently, as many patients have been admitted with gun-shot wounds. As a rule the bulk of the cases are medical, including enteric, malaria, and hæmoglobinuria.

Besides the hospitals which are able to give nurses a training which will qualify them for registration there are also smaller ones. The Chartered Company maintain several, one being at Gwelo. The nurses are paid a good salary, and if they stay for three years they are entitled to six months' holiday, the Company paying all expenses of the passage home.

In addition to the general hospitals there are various private nursing homes, and institutions which send out private nurses in South Africa. I am informed, on reliable authority, that the work both in hospitals and in private homes is much harder than at home. The only service available is that of native untrained servants, who usually prefer basking in the sun, and living on a few herbs and mealies, to working hard for the white people, who, after all, only feed them.

It will be seen that while beyond Cape Colony little or no progress has been made in the organization of nurses, yet that north, south, east and west nurses are doing excellent work at isolated stations, and the development of the Continent during the last quarter of a century has been so rapid that there is ground for hoping that before the dawn of the next century National Councils of African Nurses may apply for membership of the International Council.

Appointments.

MATRON.

Miss Ethel J. Atkins has been appointed Matron of St. Leonard's Infirmary, Shoreditch. She was trained and certificated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and has held the positions of Sister at the City Hospital, Birmingham, Assistant Matron at the Western Hospital, Fulham, Matron of the Cuddington Isolation Hospital, and Matron of the Park Hospital, Hither Green. This last position, she resigned to undertake Army Nursing in South Africa, and she has for a time acted as Superintendent Sister on the Hospital ships *Lismore Castle* and *Dunera*, a position which she vacated last May. Miss Atkins is a member of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.

SISTER.

Miss Josephine Molony has been appointed Sister at the National Hospital for Consumption, Newcastle, Co. Wicklow, Ireland. She received her training at the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum, and at the Northern Branch of the Hospital for Women, Brighton, and has held the position of Staff-Nurse at the Cottage Hospital, Bromley.

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