

each. This will raise the number of beds available for patients from twenty to thirty, and it is estimated will provide accommodation for at least 200 more patients during the year.

A feature of the Hospital which the Board of Management desires to be more generally known is that arrangements have been made for the reception of paying patients. It is believed that many wives of clerks or shopmen who live in lodgings where they cannot be confined with comfort, will gladly avail themselves of the opportunity thus offered. The charge is £2 2s. a week, and the patients are provided with separate rooms. The arrangement is self-supporting.

The nurses in Liverpool institutions are not to be forgotten in the local programme of Coronation festivities. Already the Lord Mayor has signified his intention to invite them to take a trip on the Mersey, to witness the river spectacle, and no more acceptable enjoyment could be devised.

To the *Daily Mail* Correspondent at Guadeloupe is accorded the distinction of getting through the first cablegram sent by one who has visited the scene of the terrible disaster at St. Pierre. His descriptions of the sights he encountered are heart-rending in the extreme. It is good to learn that when the special steamer this correspondent had chartered put cautiously into the roadstead she found there the royal mail steamship "Solent," and on board her five doctors, three trained nurses, a corporal and squad of the hospital corps, an emergency field outfit, medical stores, and nearly a thousand barrels of provisions. We hope Miss Johnston, who has so much to say to the disparagement of nurses, will reckon it to their credit that some of their number have braved the possibility of an awful death in order to help the sufferers in one of the most appalling disasters of modern times.

So terrible was the holocaust that of the 30,000 persons who it is estimated were burned to death in the stricken city, not a single one has been identified. To add to the horrors of the situation plague is threatened unless the thousands of bodies now lying unburied are promptly disposed of. Wholesale cremation is being carried out, but there are not enough to do the work and no means to do it properly.

The American Red Cross Society has met in New York to devise relief measures. There are proposals to send water to Martinique and St. Vincent in barges, as the surface water is probably rendered undrinkable by sulphur.

We have received a copy of the Register of Members of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association, which affords most effective proof of the progress of nursing organisation in the Australian Commonwealth, as well as of the amount of hard work which must have preceded its publication. The Preface gives an account of the formation of the Association, its objects, and the conditions of membership. Then follow the rules of the Association, and the List of Hospitals in Australasia recognised by the Council of the Association as training schools. It is interesting to note in this connection that Fiji has a Government Hospital and Asylum at Sava, of which the training is recognised by the Council of the A.T.N.A. The names of the Honorary and Medical Members are then given, and then follows an imposing list forming the Register of General Nurses, giving the name of the nurse, her address, date of registration, qualifications and training. We note that the arrangement of the original Register of the R.B.N.A., not the present ineffective Roll of Members is followed.

The Register also includes a supplementary list called the Register of Midwifery Nurses, Auxiliary Branch, as, according to the rules adopted at a Special General Meeting of the Association, candidates may be admitted for registration in this branch, provided that they have received a six months' course of practical training at one of the Maternity Hospitals in Australia recognised by the Council, and have passed a satisfactory examination before a competent Board of Examiners.

The question of midwifery nursing is evidently a difficult question in Australia as in this country. The only satisfactory solution of it is in our view that midwifery nurses shall add obstetrical qualifications to their general training. We do not think, at any rate at present, that it is possible to require all nurses to take out obstetrical training, though this is much to be desired, but it is important that all who take up midwifery work should first have had general training. It is interesting to remember in this connection that at first an obstetrical qualification was not made compulsory for the medical profession; indeed it is only since 1887 that every person desiring to be registered under the Medical Acts has been obliged to pass a qualifying examination in medicine, surgery, and midwifery, and we have little doubt that although at first it may not be expedient to demand a triple qualification from nurses, yet that eventually this standard will be enforced, and at the present time it is one at which all nurses should aim. Much can be done by individual effort to raise the standard of nursing education in this direction.

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