

but the Matron, not the Sister, who is a subordinate official, should be held responsible for the general efficiency of the nursing, the Sister being responsible, as she is in all well-conducted civil hospitals, in matters of personal discipline to the senior nursing officer.

We should like to point out that in the organisation of an institution of this kind its value as a training ground for nurses in the care of cases of tuberculosis should on no account be overlooked, but we cannot find that in any of the essays attention is directed to this detail.

We do not consider that the residential quarters for any of the staff, medical, nursing, or domestic, should, in an institution of this kind, be placed under the same roof as the wards for the patients. They should be accommodated in a separate building, connected with the sanatorium proper by a covered way.

Another point which forcibly presents itself to us is that in all the plans before us but one method of treatment, namely, that by fresh air, is taken into account in framing them. Fresh air is no doubt the first essential in these cases, but we must own that we are of opinion that temperament and constitution have to be considered, and treatment which in one case may be beneficial may be unsuitable, and even harmful, in another.

We should therefore like to see included in the plans liberal arrangements for baths of various kinds, such as we find in the great hydropathic establishments, so that while the lungs are bathed in fresh air the skin may have the benefit of all the most modern methods employed in its thorough cleansing. While this point is mentioned, more especially by Dr. Latham, we scarcely think sufficient emphasis has been laid on its importance.

It also appears to us that, while the present-day ideal of nursing phthisical cases in separate rooms is no doubt the right one, some steps should be taken to provide the patients confined to their rooms with congenial society, for, in many cases, more especially amongst the artisan classes, who are not accustomed to isolation, solitary confinement is likely to act prejudicially on their general health.

We think that a prize might, with advantage, be offered for the best essay on the nursing arrangements for a sanatorium of 100 beds, including the nursing care, and amusement of the patients, the accommodation of the nursing staff, and the best utilisation of the institution, from an educational standpoint, for nurses.

Returning from the Front.

The following Nursing Sisters left Cape Town in the s.s. *Nubia* and are due to arrive at Southampton on the 12th inst. :—Sisters M. B. Bennett, L. G. Kell, I. Badger, E. M. Hodgson, S. Dawney, and K. Hodkins.

Nursing in West Africa.

It is not many years ago since the West Coast of Tropical Africa was an unknown region to British women, but wherever the British trader, in the commercial interests of his country, finds his way, there sooner or later his countrywomen follow. In regard to West Africa, the Secretary of State for the Colonies has realised the advantages to the European community located there of skilled nursing, and quite a number of nurses have now been appointed by the Colonial Office to posts on the Gold Coast, and in Sierra Leone, Lagos, and Northern and Southern Nigeria.

On the occurrence of a vacancy in any of the above Colonies and Protectorates, the Committee of the Colonial Nursing Association are asked to recommend a candidate for appointment, and any nurses selected for appointments must be passed as physically fit for service by one of the medical advisers of the Colonial Office.

Nurses are appointed in the first instance on a year's probation, and the Governor of the Colony or the High Commissioner, subject to the confirmation of the Secretary of State, has power to cancel the engagement within this time if he is satisfied that the nurse is not qualified for efficient service.

The salaries of nurses in all the Colonies and Protectorates are at the rate of £100 a year, rising by triennial increments of £15 to £130 a year. There is an allowance for uniform, and a daily allowance, which varies in amount from 2s. 6d. to 6s. a day, according to the amount of furniture, attendance, laundry, &c., provided free. A nurse placed in charge as Matron receives an additional £20 a year. After a year's service nurses are entitled to a furlough in England with free first-class passages to Liverpool. If a nurse's appointment is confirmed after a year's service she then becomes eligible for a pension or gratuity under the special regulations applicable to European officers serving in West Africa.

If it is considered necessary, and time admits, selected candidates may be required to undergo a course of a few months' training at the London School of Tropical Medicine and the branch hospital of the Seamen's Hospital Society, Royal Albert Docks. In this case they receive free board and lodging, and an allowance from Government at the rate of £1 a month.

At Freetown, in Sierra Leone, the Nursing Home which is intended primarily for Europeans is not entirely a Government institution, being supported in part by subscriptions, and managed by a local Committee. The staff consists of three nurses, two being, as a rule, in the Colony and the third on leave.

On the Gold Coast, European nurses have been employed since 1897. The staff consists of four nurses, two or three being, as a rule, in the Colony

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)