

anticipation of being strangled in our beds, and he volunteered to keep watch outside our tent for a few nights.

"This gave us confidence, especially as the third night he caught the Kaffir in the very act of slipping under the flap of the tent, and chased him till he reached safety on the other side of the wire fencing.

"This brought matters to a crisis, and the doctor made it his business to talk to the authorities, after which we had a regular guard every night and slept in comfort."

"Was the Kaffir ever caught"? I asked, as she paused.

"I believe not. He tried various other tents when he found ours impossible, was eventually traced, and found to be half lunatic with distinctly homicidal tendencies."

"A grizzly story," I said, rising to go. "but thank you for telling it. Nurses, one way and another, must have had a good deal to put up with out there."

"Oh, we had our good times," she replied, with a slight shrug of her shoulders, "but out there as everywhere else, we had to take the rough with the smooth."

MARY MURRAY.

## The Church of England Mission to Hop-pickers.

At the Conference of Workers in the above Mission, held at Watlington, in the centre of the hop-picking district, on September 12th, two papers were contributed on the medical aspect of the work done by the Mission. Dr. Southwell Sander, after referring to the great change in the moral conduct of the hop-pickers in the six years he had been in the district, asserted that the improvement was due to the magnificent efforts of the Mission, adding how grateful he was for the kind and useful help of the nurses provided by the Mission in the various parishes, and that more help was needed. He went on to suggest that young medical graduates still attached to the hospitals should come down for the hop-picking, giving their services gratuitously for the sake of the experience, friends being found to board them for the few weeks. They would be under the supervision of the local medical men, to whom they could refer in difficulties.

Dr. Sander then went on to express his opinion that some provision should be made either in a marquee or shepherd's hut on every farm for cases of confinement and premature delivery. It would be better, of course, that such persons should be prevented coming down for the hop-picking, but, anyhow, some provision should be made, otherwise such cases had to be taken to the little "Hopper Hospital," and so occupied beds which ought to be reserved for cases of very serious illness.

Sister K. Kerr hoped her experience of four years in a little Hopper Hospital would encourage some to give their money and others their services to this interesting part of the work. Having replied to some who ask "why is nursing and medical work necessary?" by reminding such that most o

the pickers arrive miserably clad and shod, and often pick in bad weather, and that the children with poor constitutions will under such circumstances rapidly develop pneumonia, bronchitis, phthisis, rheumatism, and many other ills from the unaccustomed exposure and complete change of air, she mentioned in addition to the many injuries sure to occur from the collection of so great a number of people, then referred to the first starting of the hospital in 1899 at Mereworth, where it remained three years, increasing each year until removed to Watlington in 1902 as being more central. This season it is possible to provide two beds for adults and three for children. In admitting baby patients the nurses have often to harden their hearts and refuse some whose mothers are palpably anxious to plant them out during the hop-picking, for the object of the hospital is not that of a crèche.

The efforts of the nurses are greatly appreciated and civility and gratitude invariably met with. The hospital is run on an economical system. No elaborate plant either for patients or nurses is provided, and the initial expense of beds and bedding, necessary furniture, crockery, &c., is about £25 to £30. The cost of maintenance each season is about £4 a week, with, say, £4 10s. for the cost of drugs, bandages, wool, &c., these being chiefly for the out-patients, who this season have averaged fifty a day.

The out-patient department is a great feature of the work, and a covered shed close to the hospital furnished with a table and forms and some enamelled ware with a supply of hot water is very desirable.

The Hon. Secretary, the Rev. Francis G. Oliphant, supplemented the papers by stating that in parishes, seven or eight in number, where there is no little Hopper Hospital, the nursing work is carried on, from a centre, a hut or school or room, used possibly for other purposes during the day. Here the nurse attends at certain hours, morning and evening, visiting during the day the various encampments to attend those unable to come to the centre. When the encampments are at a distance, and the number of pickers large, the work of the nurse is by no means light, some 300 patients being probably seen in a three weeks hop-picking.

## Nursing at the Church Congress.

Miss Amy Hughes, General Superintendent of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, will read a paper on nursing at the Church Congress, which is to be held at Weymouth during the first week of October. The title of the paper is "District Nursing in Town and Country," and Miss Hughes will present it on Friday, October 6th.

## A Friend of the Fatherless.

The news of the death of Dr. Barnardo, whose name will ever be associated with the Homes for Homeless Waifs which he founded, and collected funds to maintain, at the East End, will be received with unfeigned sorrow by many thousands of those whom he has benefited. He died at his own home at Surbiton, during an attack of angina pectoris, for which he has lately been under treatment at Nannheim.

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