

effect, and distribution of "sleeping sickness," recently addressed a meeting at the Royal Institute of Public Health on the subject. Colonel Bruce said that in certain parts of the country, where the disease had broken out some time between 1896 and 1901, it had in a short time reduced a populous and richly cultivated country to a depopulated wilderness. Sleeping sickness was essentially a disturbance of the functions of the brain. A patient might go about doing his ordinary work for years, without his friends noticing that there was anything the matter. But gradually a slight change in his demeanour became evident; he was less inclined to exert himself; he lay about more during the day; and at last his intimates saw that he had the first symptoms of that absolutely fatal disease. His investigations had led him to believe that probably the disease was introduced from the Congo, that it was caused by the entrance into the blood of a protozoal parasite, and that the infection was carried from the sick to the healthy by a species of tsetse fly. Certainly the distribution of that fly corresponded with the distribution of the disease. Where there was no fly there was no sleeping sickness. In other words, they were dealing with a human tsetse fly disease. Sleeping sickness was found to have a very peculiar distribution. It was restricted to the numerous islands that dot the northern part of the Victoria Nyanza and to a narrow belt of country a few miles wide skirting the shores of the lake, but only in localities where there was forest with high trees and dense undergrowth.

A MYSTERIOUS DISEASE.

A curious disease, frequently resulting in total blindness, is reported by a contemporary to be prevalent in British Central Africa, as well as in Rhodesia and Zambesia.

At first a white spot is observed on the eyeball, and this in a short space of time becomes highly inflamed. The eye then discharges a white, milky fluid, and the whole of the eye becomes covered with a white film. This is the critical stage of the malady, and if the disease is very severe the eyeball bursts, thus destroying the sight entirely.

In the town of Tete on Sunday mornings long lines of blind people are to be seen, each party being led by a small boy or girl. They come into the town for the purpose of begging.

Appointments.

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT.

Miss Amy Hughes has been appointed General Superintendent of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses. She was trained in the Nightingale School of St. Thomas's Hospital, and has had a varied nursing experience, including that of Superintendent of Queen's Nurses at Chelsea, Superintendent of the Metropolitan and National Nursing Association, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, Matron of the Bolton Union Infirmary, Lady Superintendent of the Nurses' Co-operation, and Superintendent of County Nursing Associations affiliated to the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, a position which she has held since 1901. Miss Hughes has just attained her nursing majority, and, in addition to her arduous and successful work, has taken a lively interest in the progress of the nursing profession as a whole. Her appointment will, we feel sure, be an exceedingly popular one, and we offer her our sincere congratulations.

MATRONS.

Miss E. G. Scaife has been appointed Matron of the Isolation Hospital, Garforth. She was trained at the Crumpsall Infirmary, and has since worked at the York Home for Nurses, and at the South Eastern Fever Hospital, London. She has also held the positions of Charge Nurse at the South Shields Union Infirmary, at Ripon Union Infirmary, and at Hunslet Union Infirmary, Leeds; Head Nurse at the Wharfedale Union Infirmary, and District Nurse at Moseley, near Manchester.

Miss Magdalen Cartwright has been appointed Matron of the Joint Infectious Hospital, Mitchell Laithes, Yorkshire. She was trained at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Rhyl, and the Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool, and has held the positions of Head Nurse at the Children's Hospital, Toxteth Park, Liverpool, of Sister at the City Hospital, Birmingham, and of Head Sister at the Infectious Hospital, Skipton.

Miss Lilian D. Field has been appointed Matron of the Cottage Hospital, Wimbledon. She was trained at University College Hospital, and has held the position of Sister at the Hospital for Women, Soho Square, W.

Miss Mary Marshall has been appointed Matron at the Cottage Hospital, Bridgend. She was trained at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital and the Monsall Fever Hospital, Manchester, and has held the position of Sister at the Hospital, Eston, Yorkshire.

Miss Margaret Storey has been appointed Matron of the Victoria Hospital, Keighley. She was trained at the General Infirmary, Leeds, and has held the positions of Matron at the Cottage Hospital, Fleetwood, the Palmer Memorial Hospital, Jarrow, and the Newtown Infirmary.

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