

Then came the war. She was in the firing line at the Modder, in Kimberley, and at Boshof; and later she was put in charge of the hospital at Vereeniging. When the war ended Sister Bessie took charge of the Government Hospital at Mombasa, and after this set off, unarmed, and only attended by occasional carriers picked up on the way, through North-West Rhodesia, across a corner of the Congo Free State, and along the shores of Lake Tanganyika, till she came to the Victoria Nyanza, which she crossed in an Arab dhow.

The account of her travels on foot for 300 miles is most interesting, and we next find her in charge of the camp hospital—the only woman there—when the engineers of the Cape-to-Cairo Railway were spanning the Falls, and before the bridge was half completed she was the first woman to cross it on the “travelling blondin.”

The year 1906 saw Sister Bessie on the Gold Coast, which she left after a short time (when the hospital closed down) for Liberia, the Black Man's Republic, and San Thomé, after which she found herself in the centre of our Cape colonial whale fishery. Here she became counsellor and friend of the tall Norse fishermen, one of whose small whalers recently landed her at Cape Town.

The Nurses' Missionary League.

This week special meetings are being held in connection with the Nurses' Missionary League in the Women's Club Room of the Passmore Edwards' Settlement, Tavistock Place, W.C. They are of a purely devotional character, their object being to create and strengthen among nurses interest in Home and Foreign Missionary work.

Since the formation of the League about eight years ago nearly three times as many nurses (not necessarily members) are at work in the mission field, and this year it is hoped that about thirty-four recruits will be added to their number. It speaks well for the enthusiasm of the members of the League that out of eleven hundred between two and three hundred are volunteers for foreign service. A great number of these are sent out by all the leading missionary societies, the League being inter-denominational in character.

We understand that during the past fortnight meetings have been arranged for the nursing staffs in no fewer than twenty-five London hospitals.

The meeting on Saturday afternoon next will be one of thanksgiving.

The Hospital World.

THE FORSTER GREEN HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION.

The Forster Green Hospital for Consumption, Belfast, held its Annual Meeting recently. The beds, 70 in number, 35 of which belong to the Corporation, have been fully occupied during the past year, and very encouraging results from the treatment have been obtained.

I went over this hospital last week, and was greatly interested in all I saw. It was a bitterly cold day, ice on the ponds, and snow on all the hills, but the hospital, which stands practically on one side overlooking the town, was bathed in sunshine.

The patients were all out in the shelters, only one being in bed, and very comfortable and happy they looked.

After tea, which the hospitable Matron, Miss Long, very kindly gave me, I was shown over the wards. They are all facing south and west, with large windows at the south end. The beds are not placed with a window between, but standing out from the walls, with the windows (which have the low sashes thrown up) at one end, and the door at the other. The sun thus shines in on all the beds, and there is a current of air always passing through. The wards are heated by means of hot pipes. We asked several of the patients if they did not feel cold, but they all said they liked the fresh air, and with hot jars, they were very comfortable. The whole place was beautifully bright and clean, the polished floors shining, the white walls with rounded corners, the snowy quilts and polished lockers, and the brilliant sunshine made a charming *tout ensemble*. There is an ample supply of bathrooms, etc., and a special sterilising room for the sputum, where there is a separate steriliser for the sputum before it is carried down the drain, and a very large one for the mugs which are made of aluminium and are therefore very light.

The nurses' quarters are very comfortable, and they have a most delightful sitting room, with a lovely view over the mountains.

We were charmed with our visit, and said good-bye with great reluctance.

A. C. R.

A SCOTTISH MATRONS' COUNCIL.

We are glad to learn that the formation of a Scottish Matrons' Association is now under consideration. We wish it every success. Now that nursing is on the eve of organisation by the State, the expert and well considered opinion of the heads of the Nurse Training Schools should be available. The Matrons in England and Ireland have for many years taken counsel together on professional affairs.

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