

the table. On behalf of the members of the Convalescent Home, Dr. Ewart proposed a vote of thanks, in a few well-chosen words, to Mr. and Mrs. Whitelaw and all friends from North Berwick for their kindness in giving the treat, and expressed the deep regret felt by everyone that Mrs. Whitelaw was prevented through illness from being present. In reply Mr. Whitelaw said it had given them much pleasure to give the treat, and if the children had enjoyed it, and it had been the means of bringing the Home to the notice of others, Mrs. Whitelaw's wish would be doubly recompensed. Afterwards a lady suggested that she would like to invite some of the children to her house for a garden tea in the summer, and a gentleman arranged to give a magic lantern show in a fortnight. The visitors, numbering about thirty, were then entertained to tea by Sister Hurlston and the Nurses, and this ended what one little girl described as "the happiest day of her life."

Last month the Countess of Dudley addressed a most influential meeting at Melbourne in the ballroom of the Federal Government House, on the Australian Bush Nursing Scheme. Lady Dudley said that she desired that the scheme should be in every sense Australian, and it deserved the best consideration of Australian patriots. The project was to extend district nursing to country districts. In dealing with the subject of this scheme, she would like to lift it at once to a higher plane than that of mere expediency, and infuse into even its earliest beginnings something of a spirit of patriotism and of national duty.

The nurse-members of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association were recently entertained at the State Government House, Melbourne, by Lady Gibson-Carmichael, who, as reported by *Una*, referred to the most interesting exhibition which had taken place in London in connection with the International Congress of Nurses, which she briefly described. She felt, she said, thrilled when she heard of it, and could not help hoping that in the future a similar exhibition might be held there, to show what nurses could bring in the way of education, comfort, and alleviation, to many who had a brave life of hardship and self-denial, and who have too often to face those hard moments of birth as well as of death unsoothed by any help from a nurse, and sometimes with no other woman near them.

There can be few greater joys in the life of a nurse than to know that she has been able to render help in extremity to those who otherwise would have had no assistance.

The Hospital World.

A HOSPITAL TO TEACH STRAIGHT THINKING.

Planned last spring in the hope of "ministering to minds diseased" the New York Neurological Institute has, says Miss Mary Brown Sumner in the *Survey*, become a reality. According to the statement of its purposes prepared in June by Dr. Joseph Collins and two fellow physicians, the hospital was to be for patients with so-called functional curable nervous and mental diseases. Such disorders if left uncared for or cared for in the hurried slipshod manner of the ordinary dispensary—five minute consultation with the doctor and a bottle of medicine—are in danger of becoming more dominant, until finally they control the patient imperiously, and he passes into the incurable class. The long, sympathetic care necessary for recovery, the treatment by suggestion, the proper environment, sun and air—all these things can be provided for the rich patient, but not for the poor. And the poor, struggling against an unpropitious environment, need care infinitely more. They need furthermore "to be taught how to live hygienically, how to think straight, how to pluck out fear, apprehension and obsession and to put in their places courage, hope and confidence." That such an institution as the New York Neurological Institute was indeed a response to a great need in New York was shown by the fact that on the day the dispensary opened (November 29th) no less than fifty patients reported, and these were not sent from other dispensaries, but had seen a notice in a daily paper and recognised this as a hope of relief from those mental sufferings which cannot be cured by medicines, but which are not paralleled in intensity by bodily suffering. The daily attendance now averages eighty. There are twenty-five patients in the wards and private rooms, in fact, as fast as wards and rooms are ready for occupancy they are filled.

The hospital occupies the building at 149-151 East Sixty-seventh street, formerly the Lenox Private Hospital. This is a well-equipped fireproof building of five stories, with a capacity for about seventy-five indoor patients, a small operating room, small provision for medicines, but the first complete equipment in America of apparatus for the treatment of nervous diseases. The whole lower floor is devoted to the dispensaries and the psychotherapeutic rooms. First of these rooms is that for the treatment of locomotor ataxia. Here by means of diagrams on the floor, supplemented by exercises at home the patient is taught to replace the automatic nervous reflexes per-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)