

Letters and papers prove that the Australasian nursing world has been widely interested by Miss Amy Hughes and Mr. Harold Boulton in Lady Dudley's District Bush Nursing Scheme, and it is hoped to secure sufficient funds to make a successful beginning. These two expert missionaries have addressed many meetings in Queensland and New South Wales, they have wisely enlisted the help of the powerful State Associations of Nurses, and have met in every way the suggestions of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association with regard to the necessary training of the nurses being equal to their standards. Only such nurses as are registered members of the A.T.N.A. and the R.V.T.N.A. are to be accepted. In addition, it is proposed that one member of their State Councils shall be nominated by the A.T.N.A. in each State on to the Committee of the new scheme.

The nurses' official organ asks—will nurses be found in sufficient numbers who are willing to put aside the attractive city life of private nurses, where they can find more work than they can do, and where at the end of the year they can show a very substantial income for their work? Will nurses be found in sufficient numbers who are willing to undergo further study and training to fit themselves for the exigencies of a Bush Nurse? The *Australasian Trained Nurses' Journal* thinks they will, provided that there is at least no pecuniary loss by accepting such positions, not that it is meant to infer that nurses are mercenary, but they certainly should not be called upon to add philanthropy to their other necessary virtues. Individual nurses will be found ready to sacrifice all—salary, amusement, comfort, and friendship, to carry on a work which appeals to them, but these are few, and the mission fields find most of them.

It is considered that a large endowment fund will be necessary to successfully launch and carry on the organisation on the lines suggested, but as a memorial to the best beloved of monarchs it will no doubt soon reach a sum sufficient to start the Bush Nursing on a limited scale.

We have no doubt that in time the supply of devoted women ready to undertake the arduous and lonely work will meet the need, and we heartily congratulate our colleagues in the great Commonwealth that there is to be no sham about the standard of nursing they are to offer to the sick in the Bush.

## Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The King has been pleased to become Patron of the General Hospital, Birmingham, and of Newcastle Royal Victoria Infirmary.

The King and Queen have become Patron and Patroness of the Royal Hospital for Incurables, Edinburgh.

The Queen has consented to become Patroness of St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, Leicester Square.

In the report just printed by the King Edward's Hospital Fund the hon. secs., Sir Savile Crossley and Mr. F. M. Fry, give a lot of useful information about the cost of maintenance of London's ninety-nine hospitals—just one short of 100—in 1909. The secretaries point out that economies effected in management have effected a saving of £6,000.

The proposal to increase the number of Hon. Surgeons at the London Hospital has been met by disapprobation and opposition by the present visiting staff. But at the Quarterly Court held on the 7th inst., two surgeons and two assistant surgeons were elected. The present staff consists of seven surgeons and four assistants. Considering the enormous number of operations done in the theatres and out-patients' department, the additional assistance will no doubt be for the benefit of the patients.

We rather sympathise with the opinion of Major Ferguson, the Chairman of the Committee of the Cumberland Infirmary, at Carlisle, who, whilst deploring an increasing deficit, denied that there was any extravagance or any ground of complaint against the management, adding that Carlisle was cram-full of croakers, but as they did not subscribe they were of no value to the institution, and their grumbings were valueless.

The first Conference of the British Hospitals Association will be held in Glasgow on September 29th and 30th. Mr. Cosmo Bonsor, President of Guy's Hospital, is the President, and the objects of the organisation are (1) to facilitate the consideration and discussion of matters connected with hospital management, and where advisable to take measures to further the decisions arrived at; and (2) to afford opportunities for the acquisition of a knowledge of hospital administration, both lay and medical.

A Sub-committee of Directors of the Sick Children's Hospital, Aberdeen, has been formed to take immediate steps to consider and report as to the best methods to be adopted for the provision of a new hospital building, which has for some time been recognised as a pressing necessity. Excellent work has been accomplished in the existing hospital, but under very great difficulties. The beautiful Children's Hospital in Edinburgh, of which the managers are so justly proud, might well be taken as a model.

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