

medical profession and nursing authorities. It is intended to make the scheme and its working thoroughly South African. As far as possible the King's nurses should have full experience of South African conditions, especially in district nursing. They must be thoroughly trained in hospital work. A nurse cannot be accepted for responsible duties unless she has reached the standard requisite for registration in any part of the Union. In the choice of centres every care will be taken to avoid any competition or conflict with existing nursing associations and the work of their nursing staff. The Provincial committees which are now being organised, and, in fact, are in existence, will be consulted on the selection of localities for centres.

(2) To make provision for the services of a King's nurse in districts out of reach of the centres and of existing nursing associations when the local authority expresses a desire for her services, and upon terms to be agreed upon according to the needs and circumstances of the locality. Experience shows that, in the absence of widespread and effective organisation, a single nurse in many districts is not able to earn her living, and, though her services are frequently and urgently required, she has to leave. The committee hope to remedy this serious drawback.

(3) The provision of nurses for the needs of the native and coloured population. These needs are held to be distinct from those of Europeans, and consequently the contributions of the natives and coloured people will be devoted to the training of native and coloured nurses at Lovedale or similar institutions. Organisation, as well as funds, will be held distinct.

The executive committee are fully aware of possible dangers in certain districts to nurses if unaccompanied, and of the difficulties and cost arising from long cross-country distances. Every precaution will be taken, based on the experience of the nursing institutions at Kimberley, Capetown, and elsewhere, to guard effectually against danger.

The proposals appear fairly reasonable, but when the committee adds that at present the general plan is based on the lines already adopted in the working organisations in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and India, and approved by the medical and nursing professions in these countries, they should omit the United Kingdom, because for a vast number of district nurses—who are not Queen's Nurses—the standard of education and remuneration is so low—the profession of nursing at large, which has no legal status, is never consulted about it—and strongly deprecates its insufficiency. By the aid of State Registration of nurses in the South African States—a one portal system can be easily agreed upon—and the interests of trained nurses and in consequence those of the sick, can be wisely protected. We are pleased to note that the registration standards at present in force in the Union are to be maintained as a minimum. To be fair to South African nurses—those nurses wishing to be King's Nurses emigrating from home must be subjected to the same examination tests.

## NURSES AND THE NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT.

There seems still to be great confusion in connection with the carrying out of the provisions of the National Insurance Act. In reply to a question by Mr. Aubrey Herbert in the House of Commons, as to whether district nursing would come under the heading of sickness benefit, medical benefit, or whether it would be considered an additional benefit, Mr. Masterman replied that the Commissioners had not yet prescribed on which specific benefit or benefits any grants made by approved societies or Insurance Committees should be treated as having been expended.

As to the condition of the grants, Mr. Masterman said that under Section 21 it was lawful for an approved society or Insurance Committee to grant subscriptions or donations in support of district nurses. It was not possible at present to make any statement as to what use they would make of this power.

Miss C. C. du Sautoy, County Superintendent of Nurses for Somerset, has been appointed on to the County Insurance Committee.

### PRIZES FOR NURSES.

The following prizes have been awarded to the nurses by the chairman of the Board of the Jessop Hospital for Women, Sheffield:—Probationer Jessie Lynam, first prize senior division; Probationer Beatrice Clark, second prize senior division; Probationer Effie Carr, first prize junior division.

### ROYAL HONOURS FOR SERVICES AT MESSINA.

Nurse Gerrie, who rendered important services at Messina during the earthquake disaster which took place on December 28th, 1908, has been made the recipient of various medals and diplomas in recognition of her work on that occasion. She has been in America for rather more than a year, and has recently been to her home in Aberdeen on a brief holiday, where these medals have been forwarded to her on her arrival from Chicago. Two medals have been given to her from the King of Italy—one accompanied by a diploma and presented by the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the second a commemorative medal which, to transcribe the text of the message, "His Majesty the King of Italy has been graciously pleased to confer upon you in recognition of services rendered to the victims of the earthquake in Southern Italy of December 28th, 1908." The third medal, which is also accompanied by a diploma, is from the Red Cross Society of Italy; and is presented in recognition of her noble services to the suffering during that catastrophe.

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