

distinct pecuniary sacrifice. It is notorious that the power of appeal to the Committee is a simple farce. The late Chairman has, on his oath, even admitted that fact. It is notorious that the Nurses are overworked and underfed. It has been admitted, on their oaths, by the officials of the Hospital. It is notorious that complaints either never reach the Committee, or at any rate never receive attention. And this grinding tyranny has gone on for years. And when it is publicly exposed after all attempts at private intercession have failed, the only defence is an expression of great indignation at such charges being advanced "to damage the Hospital" and ridiculous attempts to abuse the supposed plaintiff's attorney!

It is notorious that the Hospital deliberately deceives the public, and palms off upon the sick, who apply for "thoroughly-trained Nurses," an inferior article—a semi-trained Probationer—for whom it charges the full market price of the most skilled Nurse. That has been sworn to by the Matron. It is notorious that more than £2,000 a year is sweated out of the labour of these women, to the great hindrance of their regular training, because they are sent out of the Hospital, to the great over-strain of the remaining workers in the Wards, and the inevitable neglect of the poor in-patients. It is notorious that the Balance-sheet only shows, *without any single word of explanation*, the net profits left after the payment of all expenses, although in every other case the receipts are given on one side of the accounts and the corresponding expenses on the other. Everyone is asking: Why should there be all this deliberate deceit this straining after money making, and this anxiety to conceal how much has been made? And yet, when the serious facts are brought to light, there are no explanations, no promise of alteration, only wild, incoherent abuse of someone of whom those implicated seem to stand in mortal fear.

It will doubtless be within the recollection of some readers of the *Record* that in an issue in November last there was a note on the appointment of Miss Alice Perring to be Matron of the Frontier Hospital, at Queenstown, South Africa. The excellent training received by this lady in the Kimberley Hospital, and the testimony to her efficiency as a careful administrator borne by the Sister-in-charge of her mother institution, led one to hope for good things from Miss Perring's appointment. I am happy to be in a position to state that "Sister Alice," as Miss Perring is now named, has more than fulfilled the hopes entertained of her. Under her energetic care the

little hospital at Queenstown has undergone a rapid and brilliant transformation. From being a dull and dingy place with little to commend it beyond being just able to offer a roof for those who were in danger of dying in the veldt, the Hospital now offers a picture of cleanness, comfort, coziness that is very cheering to the soul of the unfortunate invalid.

It is scarcely too much to say that this has been brought about by Sister Alice's tact and ability. The Hospital is under the management of a Local Committee. The funds at the committee's disposal are not very large, about £1,200 being the whole of their annual revenue; but to their credit be it recorded, they early acknowledged the superiority of the new *regime*, and have in every possible way tried to help Sister Alice in the reform she has been working out. At present Sister Alice has three young ladies, Colonial girls, under training; and a fourth, after about a year's training in the Wards, has left for Kimberley Hospital, to obtain the benefit of the experience which the Wards there are so well fitted to bestow. But Sister Alice has no mind to stop at this point. Some two or three months ago she proposed to the Committee that they should attach to the Hospital a small house with accommodation for half a dozen Nurses, and should also engage the services of a Nurse skilled in Obstetric Nursing, with a view to giving the young Probationers some insight into the mysteries of Monthly Nursing, for which purpose a small Ward was to be set aside into which lying-in cases from the poorer classes were to be admitted.

To meet the expenses of erecting the Home, as well as for erecting a new laundry and other conveniences, the Committee have made a petition to the Colonial Parliament for a grant in aid; sum of £2,000 being needed. And for the training of Sister Alice's pupils in the specialties of Midwifery she has laid her mother institution under requisition, with the result that the Sister-in-Charge has agreed to the transfer of Nurse Sutton to the Frontier Hospital, at a present salary of £10 10s. per month. When these proposals have been given effect to, the local Hospital will have established a very large claim upon public recognition and support. For in addition to providing for the relief of an increasing number of sick and hurt, it will afford a means of giving a serviceable training in nursing to some young ladies who may feel their vocation to be in that line, but who are unable to obtain entrance to distant institutions for the purpose of equipping themselves in the profession. Frontier Hospital has nominally thirty-two beds for sick inmates,

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