

fully in such unfamiliar conditions. They will meet with strange experiences, but need not fear anything really unpleasant; the farther one goes from the civilisation of cities, the greater the consideration and deference shown to women who are workers.

Nurses who undertake private cases for a time can generally obtain a hospital post later on, if they wish. There are several very good training schools where Colonial girls of Dutch and British extraction (chiefly the latter) enter for three years' training as probationers, and there are many smaller institutions. Sisters are always provided with quarters, board, laundry and uniform allowance, and the salaries are from £5 to £7 a month according to the district.

They come on duty about 8 a.m., and finish at 9 or 9.30 p.m., and as a rule have five or six hours free every day for meals and recreation; in country places the residents call on the nursing staff, who receive many invitations to picnics and parties, leave being readily granted if the work permits. The holidays include a half-day once a week or once a fortnight, a whole day monthly, and about four weeks during the year.

In all hospitals paying patients are taken, and are nursed in single, double, and small general wards at varying fees, these being equal to the charges in good nursing homes in England. In many hospitals there are also free wards for those who cannot afford to pay, and in some a separate section for coloured people. The rules and routine differ considerably from the usual order at home; paying patients can be attended by their own doctors who visit them at any hour, the house surgeon's and physician's rounds being the only regular ones in the day; much of

the work is done by the black "boys" who are attached to each institution, as the Colonial girls have strict ideas as to what white women do. The nurses only stay in the wards when actually attending to patients, they go to their duty-room to cut dressings, roll bandages, &c., and sit there during the night between their rounds, this necessitating many calls and ringing of bells, but as some of the wards are small, and one nurse is in charge of several an arrangement of this kind has to be made.

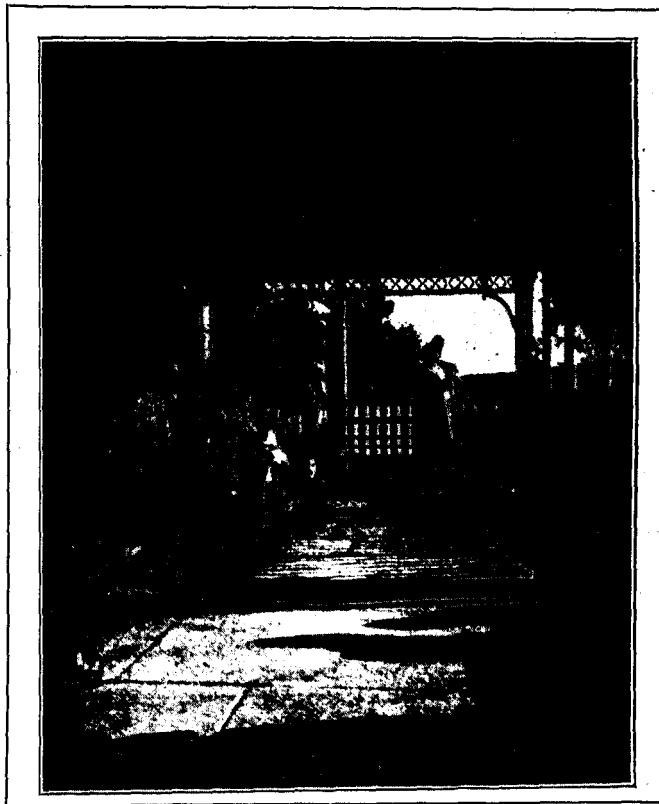
Whatever the newcomer's opinion, if she wishes to live harmoniously with the local sisters, she will make as little as possible of the

difference between their respective trainings; Colonials are quick to resent any assumption of superiority on the part of a Britisher, but equally quick to show friendliness to anyone who is simple and unaffected.

All over South Africa the summers are very hot, and in some places on the coast, such as Durban, there is hardly any winter. On the high veldt there is a really cold season, with bright sunshine, keen winds, and frosty nights. Clothes are everywhere dearer than at home, and outdoor uniform is

not very general. White and black are unsuitable on account of the red-brown dust, and bright colours because of the strong sunshine; linens and cottons in such shades as biscuit and champagne are most useful in summer, and coats and skirts in thin tweeds and flannels during the cold weather, with a warm wrap or overcoat to put on after sunset. The life is freer and less conventional than in England, and people make friends more readily, as being away from home draws those of one blood together.

M. C.



A COUNTRY HOTEL: THE STOEP, CRAIGHILL.

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