

and a large crowd gave their Excellencies a very cordial welcome.

Lady Gladstone spoke as follows :—" This is a wonderful day for me, for my dream has come true, and I find myself actually standing up to speak to you in the first King Edward Nurses' Home. I don't know whether many of you here to-day realise the amount of labour and thought which has been given to bring the King Edward Memorial to the stage which it has now happily reached. We have had many hopes and fears, but always we kept before our eyes the sore need of the sick and suffering, and were supported and encouraged by those who believed in the scheme. I feel so grateful to all who have helped forward the work that I don't know whom to thank first. To begin with, the executive committee—composed as it is of members from every Province in the Union—who have worked with complete harmony and devotion for the cause, and Miss Currey, who by her eloquence and powers of organisation has done much to explain the scheme to the people of South Africa. Then there are the local committees in the large towns and the small, and all those who helped to collect the Memorial Fund, and the generous South African public, who gave us £25,000 with which to start our scheme. I should like to give a special word of thanks to the medical men of South Africa, who so kindly assisted us in drawing up our rules and regulations for nurses. Our very grateful thanks are due to the municipality of Kroonstad for the gift of the site for this home, and, lastly, I want to thank the anonymous donor for presenting the Order with this lovely home for our nurses. The house is delightful, and has been designed by Mr. Baker specially for its purpose. We need at least three others of the same kind for the other three Provinces, and I hope the good example of the anonymous donor will shortly be followed. I will end by telling you how much I have enjoyed being here to-day, and seeing this home. The anonymous donor has very kindly expressed the wish that the house should be named after me, so the " Dorothy Centre " it will be. Opening this home is a red-letter day in my life, and I shall always be glad to think that some little memory of me will be associated with a work in which I have taken so deep an interest. God's blessing rest on the undertaking and its works."

The nursing scheme is intended to apply equally to Europeans and natives, and as we have announced Miss J. C. Child, who was trained at St. Thomas, and at one time a member of the R.N.S. is now General Lady Superintendent of the Order.

THE GOVERNMENT CIVIL HOSPITAL, KANDY, CEYLON.

BY A FORMER SISTER.

This is a large general hospital of 120 beds, but that does not mean only 120 patients, for when the beds are full mats are spread for them on the floor (and often a patient prefers sleeping on the floor, being afraid of a bed, not being accustomed to it), so that the number of patients is often double that of beds.

The wards are built in pavilion style, with a covered way leading one to the other, and as the hospital is on a hill, this means a great many steps.

On the men's side there are five large wards : one for dysentery and diarrhoea cases, a surgical ward, a medical ward, one for Tamil coolies who come from the surrounding tea estates, one for venereal diseases, and also a small ward for police constables.

On the women's side is a surgical, medical, and a dysentery and diarrhoea ward; also a very nice maternity ward, called the Princess Louise Schleswig-Holstein Ward, her Royal Highness having taken a great interest in this ward on the occasion of a visit she paid to the hospital.

There are a large number of maternity cases; the babies are very tiny, but they thrive, and do very well. The Sinhalese people are of small stature, so naturally the babies are diminutive. In addition to the above-mentioned wards are two private wards for Europeans, and also several small rooms with either one or two beds for better-class native patients or Eurasians, who pay a small sum for the sake of privacy. The work is good and very general. A great number of accidents, a fair variety of surgical work, and many tropical diseases, such as ankylostomiasis, elephantiasis, guinea worm, &c. The work is good, but the great problem is the training of nurses; it is so difficult, and at times seems almost impossible to obtain the right class of girl. Those who come for training are mostly Eurasian, and that not of a good type, and the love of nursing and the desire to help others is seldom the motive of their coming to hospital, but only because they must earn their own living until they can get married, do they come.

The period for training is for two years, at the end of which time the nurse must pass the Government examination, and if she does so obtains a certificate; then generally Government transfers her to an out-station, where she is put in charge of a hospital, a most iniquitous

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