

little patients, whose treatment in many instances is necessarily of long duration. Trained nurses who realise the advantage of the special instruction and training at Alton Hospital, and would like to avail themselves of it, should apply to the Matron, who, we feel sure, will be pleased to prove to them its value by permitting them to visit the wards.

DISTRICT NURSING.

One of the pioneers of district nursing, whose activities were closely connected with those of Florence Nightingale, has died in the person of Mrs. Ashton, widow of the late Mr. Thomas Ashton, of Manchester.

With other Manchester ladies, the late Mrs. Ashton started the work of district nursing in the poorer districts of the great city, which is now splendidly served by Queen's Nurses. Councillor Margaret Ashton inherits her mother's fine civic spirit, and her name is held in the highest respect in the circles of social reform.

An arrangement has been made by the Ryde Borough Education Committee with the Ryde District Nursing Association for the half-time services of a nurse to act as school nurse at £40 per annum. Councillor Hayden objected, and said he regarded the appointment as an insult to the motherhood of the land and an interference with the rights of the people.

Councillor A. Andrews, J.P., said although at the present moment they had no power to compel any parent to have a child medically examined or to receive a visit from the nurse, he knew of no one who was more readily welcomed than the nurses from the District Nursing Association. The Chairman, Alderman G. E. Mears, replying to the discussion, said the best possible results had accrued from the medical examination of children, and he looked forward to even better results by the doctor being backed up by a nurse.

Bush Nursing in New South Wales is making steady though not rapid progress. The salary is £100 a year, in addition to board and lodging, and a month's holiday on full pay. Life is spent much in the open, and is natural and invigorating. This has great charms for those who incline to the simple life.

It will interest her many friends to know that Mrs. Holgate—who, as one of the New Zealand delegates at Cologne, made so many friends in Europe—is now engaged in most interesting Empire-building work. It will be remembered that under the "Seddon" Government many of the great stations—comprising,

perhaps, 50 miles of land—were bought up, and sections sold for agricultural purposes—where a few people dwelt—now hundreds work and enjoy independence—and "may have motor cars." At the little township of Seddon, 16½ miles away from a doctor, Mrs. Holgate is working as district nurse. The Government subsidises the salary paid by the Wairau Hospital Board, the district paying some £600 a year in rates to the Board; a cottage is provided, with hot and cold water, and bathroom and other conveniences. The whole district is on the telephone—an instrument which has revolutionized district nursing in outlying places in New Zealand. To get intelligent reports on the telephone it is necessary for the mothers of families to have a certain amount of knowledge, so much of Mrs. Holgate's time is taken up in teaching, and quite a large class of mothers and others meet in the Town Hall every week. They have all bought thermometers, and will be examined by a doctor from Blenheim from time to time. The chief work is midwifery, and dressing wounds from accidents whilst sheep shearing and handling thrashing machines. It is certainly a great blessing to mothers to have their babies at home, but it is the rule for them to go into hospital unless someone can stay in the home with them after delivery, and it is very difficult to get domestic help in the outlying country districts, where girls will not stay owing to the solitude. Life is thus often very hard for the women whose husbands' work is agriculture. Mrs. Holgate ends her interesting letter:—"I am looking forward to our meeting in 1915 at San Francisco. It is the mental inspiration acquired during twenty months spent in Europe—by coming into touch with so many wonderful women in the nursing world at Cologne, and elsewhere—which has made me contented to sit down and do my best here until our next great international gathering." Chewing the cud of happy experiences is indeed a great refreshment in between.

POOR LAW NURSING.

A Belper jury, on Saturday, expressed the opinion that the nursing staff at the Union Workhouse Infirmary was insufficient, and Mr. Sale, the district Coroner, is to send a recommendation to the Guardians to this effect.

The inquest had been called in consequence of a patient in the hospital falling out of bed in the temporary absence of the night nurse and sustaining injuries.

Replying to questions by the Coroner and jury, Dr. S. R. G. Allen, the Medical Officer, stated that when a patient was supposed to be dying, the nurse should remain at the bed-

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