

the "Natal Centre" at Ladysmith. Owing to the vast distances in the States which compose the Union of South Africa, the work will require an immense amount of organisation before the scheme meets the needs throughout the land; but a good beginning has been made and the work is flourishing.

THE CERTIFICATION OF NATIVE AND COLOURED NURSES.

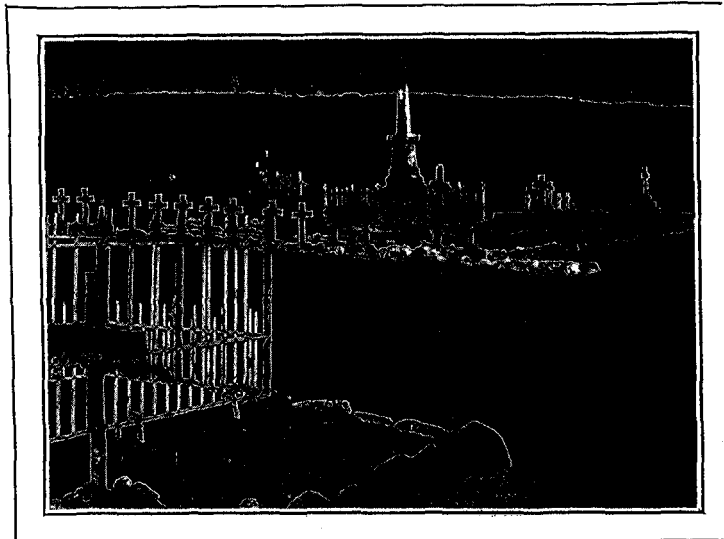
The question of the State Registration of Native and Coloured Nurses is now being discussed in the Press. No doubt you will have something to say on it in *THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING*. It is to be hoped that nothing will be done to make it easy for the coloured races here to claim the legal title of "trained nurse," as it would inevitably end in depreciating the status of the trained European nurse. I have had much experience of nursing with native sick attendants, and have found them most helpful in explaining to their kind the reasons for the necessary treatment and management, and with careful instruction and constant supervision very clean and efficient work will be done by them. But to establish a lower grade of nurse that natives may be called "nurses" would, in my opinion, be a fatal mistake. Let those educated up to the

standard enter for the examination for trained nurses, and let others be known as male and female native attendants, to work entirely under trained European Sisters. But nothing, for the sake of expediency, should be done to cheapen the title of trained nurse, and I hope the Councils of medical men who rule our educational standards, and thereby our destinies in South Africa, will hesitate long before cutting at the root of nursing efficiency by recognising lower standards for natives than for Europeans. But I feel sure they will realise the danger.

J. C. C.

We expressed our views on this important question of instituting a lower grade nursing certificate for native and coloured persons in South Africa in last week's *JOURNAL*. We feel confident the Cape Province Medical Council will realise the danger to efficient nursing of carrying

any such suggestion into effect; but the mere fact that it has been proposed by medical men and considered by the Hospital Sub-Committee of the Council, should sound a note of warning to the nursing world in South Africa. No Council of any description should be entrusted with the power of standardising trained nursing, registering nurses, and maintaining discipline amongst them, upon which the nursing profession is not adequately represented. It is now twenty-two years since the Cape Colony Government took the progressive step of registering trained nurses, and entrusted the Cape Medical Council with the work. Trained nursing has stepped lively since those bygone days, it is time the registered nurses of South Africa elected, from a constituency of such, responsible trained nurses on the body empowered to govern them. We hope ere long to see a move in this direction upon the part of the nursing profession in United South Africa. It is high time it realised its professional responsibility.



THE CEMETERY, WAGON HILL,

In "The Great Scourge and How to End it," Miss Christabel Pankhurst, LL.B., deals with the question of venereal diseases, often described as the Hidden Scourge, the intention being that the "scourge shall be hidden no longer, for if it were to remain hidden then there would be no hope of abolishing it."

The book which may be had from Lincoln's Inn House, Kingsway, W.C., is a fearless statement of the evils resulting from prostitution, including the infection of the innocent, and especially of wives.

The author warmly repudiates the arguments advanced as to "human nature" and injury to man's health. "Human nature is," she says, "a very wide term, and it covers a multitude of sins and vices which are not on that account any the more to be tolerated. It is human nature to rob and to kill. Cannibalism itself is in the nature of certain human beings. Robbing, killing, and cannibalism are nevertheless all forbidden, and the people who venture to let go their human nature in these directions are comparatively few." The book will no doubt have a wide circulation, and has already attracted considerable notice, and has been favourably commented upon by members of the medical profession.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)