

appeal to the Colonial Nursing Association had to be made, and the majority of the nurses sent out from England have proved eminently satisfactory.

NATIVE SECTION.

The money given by Natives towards the King Edward VII Memorial was set aside to be devoted entirely to work among the Natives, and in this connection a start has been made at De Aar, where a Native nurse has been placed to work in the location as "district nurse." As far as possible the scheme there will be managed by a Native Committee, which will be responsible for the small guarantee required, and will also see that a small fee is paid for the nurse's services by those in a position to do so. The first Native nurse engaged—Grace E. Mbongwe—was trained at the Lovedale Institute, but as she only went to De Aar at the beginning of February, it is, of course, too soon to report on the work done. Arrangements are being made for the nurse to give a much-needed course of health lectures in the location.

With the exception of the Native side, no new centres have been opened during the year.

The Matron of the Newry Workhouse has resigned, and the question of filling the vacancy proves how little trained nursing is considered necessary for the poor inmates.

A candidate for the post was the school-mistress, who refused to accept the post (how about the responsibility?) for the paltry additional sum of £5, but was quite prepared to accept it if £10 was added to her present salary.

The Clerk proposed they should appoint a nun as Matron, with a salary of £25, but this motion was defeated. Ultimately the matter was deferred for a fortnight. No inquiry concerning any professional qualifications for the post appears necessary.

At a recent meeting of the Southwark Board of Guardians, Mr. Philip McCarthy, on behalf of the Infirmary Visiting Committee, informed the Board that permission had been given by the Local Government Board to assign a salary of £40 per annum to each of the head nurses at the infirmary for the period of the war. He also recommended that four staff nurses be promoted head nurses, each with remuneration at the rate of £40 per annum. Mr. McCarthy mentioned that out of 13 staff nurses who were necessary in accordance with the regulations of the Local Government Board, there were none now holding that position at the infirmary.

OUR FOREIGN LETTER.

LETTER X.—THE FINAL SESSION OF THE NURSES' CONVENTION HELD AT SAN FRANCISCO.

"A PICKER-UP OF LEARNING'S CRUMBS."

DEAR MADAM,—Shall I describe the setting in which I am trying to get inspiration to write my final letter about the Convention? The table at which I write is beneath the shade of a luxuriant Manitoba maple tree; the hot noonday sun has fretted out its shadow upon the lawn. Beyond the confines of the garden, but closely encompassing it, are fruitful orchards all round about; just now the trees are laden with the most inviting-looking apples and pears. Still further beyond, are the hills of this lovely valley, and not far off lies a lake, which usually reflects the colour of the cloudless blue sky, but sometimes the atmosphere paints it a tender pink! A pretty, low bungalow with warm red tiles, and covered in many places with creepers, is close by. The hum of the insects is almost the only sound I hear, except—when I let my fancies free—the music of the spheres.

The word final as used above, does not mean *finality*. If you will still allow me space, there are many more things I could write about that might interest your readers.

My aim from the first has been, to be a "picker-up of Learning's Crumbs"! The wind-up Session, was in some respects, the most inspiring of all, because it was a culmination of all that goes to make the Nursing profession in America what it is. It was a striking epitome of all the great constructive work that our sisters on the other side of the Atlantic have achieved. The House of Delegates had met for their final business Session. Something like 33 States had sent representatives, as demonstrated by as many placards depending from the front end of each seat, looking very imposing. I am not able at this moment to give you the names of all these States, but I will do so on a future occasion, because when English nurses read them, and then, by referring to their atlases, discover what great distances many of the nurses travelled, they will surely be as impressed as I was, not only by the esprit de corps and the solidarity of the *individuals*, but also with the earnestness of purpose and the solidarity of their *organizations*.

The amount of work that was got through in those five days was amazing. None but women of trained minds and fine organizing abilities could have so successfully carried through such a burden of work; but the able chairmanship, and other powers, of such women as Professor Goodrich, Miss Noyes, Miss G. Cooke, Miss Anna C. Jamme, Miss van Blarcom and others, make all things possible. It cannot be doubted for a moment, that the great and *obviously* necessary reform of State Registration of Nurses has produced wonderful and rapid educational results. When you uttered these words to one of America's most

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