

institution, were deserving the thanks of the community for their self-sacrificing devotion to the cause of suffering humanity. Their very warmest and most grateful thanks were also due to the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, and particularly to their Superintendent (Colonel Deane). As a woman, knowing what the practical needs were of carrying into effect the care of the sick, she realised the immense importance to the institution of the work done by their Matron. She would therefore like to express their united appreciation to Miss Bostock, whose knowledge and fine example must be a great incentive to the nursing staff, who assisted her in accomplishing the splendid work which they were continually called upon to do. The daily round of domestic duties quietly done meant the basis of efficient and economical administration.

The State Board of Registration for Nurses of Pennsylvania has decided, says the *Modern Hospital*, to appoint an educational director, whose duty it shall be to inspect the training schools throughout the State with reference to the curriculum, housing conditions, and efficiency of the school in general. The creation of this position marks the beginning of a new era in the administration of the State Registration Act, and if a properly trained person is selected for this responsible position, Pennsylvania training schools will have placed themselves in the foremost rank in the country.

It is generally well known that, while certain hospitals publish a most elaborate schedule of didactic and practical classes for their student nurses, many of them do not adhere to the schedule, and permit the practical work to interfere with classes whenever it suits the convenience of the institution. The time has come when hospitals that desire the services of student nurses will have to assume a heavy obligation to the student. They are conducting an educational institution for the training of high-grade women, and while, to impart this training, practical ward work is essential, the theoretical work is of equal importance and a necessary preliminary to the performance of efficient nursing. The education of nurses should not be dependent on the whims or personal convenience of visiting physicians or other attachés of a hospital. Every school worthy of recognition by the State Board should be required to employ a staff, however small, of paid teachers, whose services are quite as necessary in supervising the practical bedside work as they are in lecturing.

Miss A. Simpkin (late Sister Hope, St.

Bartholomew's Hospital), now working at Kota-Kota, Nyasaland, as a member of the Universities Mission to Central Africa, writes in a letter to a correspondent published in *St. Bartholomew's Hospital Journal*:—

"It is some time since I received your nice long letter, which I was very pleased to have. Dr. Tooth would be horrified every day if he knew the things I have to do alone. I often wonder how I dare, but when it seems to be a question of losing a limb, or life and death, one does one's best. So far nothing dreadful has happened, I am thankful to say. I have had to give chloroform and do the operation myself five times in the year. I am terrified at the anæsthetic.

"I had a strenuous time in the late autumn. The priest-in-charge had enteric fever, and that meant night and day for six weeks. Again, I was very thankful for Dr. Tooth's teaching.

"When the patient was rather bad, we had a message to say our layman, who was building a church forty-four miles away, was very ill with 'blackwater.' I was all there between them!

"I sent off a machila and team and my head dawa* boy to fetch the other patient, and started at 5 a.m. myself the next day to meet him half-way, or go on to him if they had not dared to move him. The Resident Magistrate here, the only European besides ourselves, lent me his mono-wheel bath car. I got to the village agreed on as a meeting-place at 11 a.m., and the patient was brought in terribly exhausted soon after 11.30. I put him to bed in a tent and did what I could for him. It was very hot (104° F. in the shade), so we waited until 4 p.m., and then started back on our seven hours' trek. The night was very dark, and we were five hours passing through the forest. It was a strange experience: I dared not let the carriers make their usual noise because of the patient. There were forest fires here and there. Sometimes the carriers got frightened (there were thirty of them). I could tell when they did, and they required some managing. However, we saw no wild beasts. I was thankful when the patient was safely in bed at the hospital. We got our doctor a few days later, and the second case soon got well. When the other patient was convalescent I took him up to Dowa to recruit. He stayed with the Resident and his wife there, right up in the hills. They are delightful people, and have a lovely garden, with all sorts of English flowers. It was a five days' journey, and I stayed there three days and a half, and came back here alone."

* Dispensary.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)