

### NATIVE HOSPITAL AIDS.

A pamphlet on "Native Hospital Aids," entitled "A Guild Organization: Some Suggestions," consists of articles originally published in the *South African Nursing Record*. The author is Miss M. E. Barker, R.R.C., trained in the Nightingale School of St. Thomas' Hospital, London, who has had a varied nursing career, at home and abroad, in both civil and active service, and is a member of the Committee of the Johannesburg Hospital.

Miss Barker discusses first "The Certificate Question," and lays down the fundamental principles that "everything possible should be done to give relief and succour to the sick and suffering, no matter what be the colour of the patient's skin, but our efforts to do this must be guided by wisdom and foresight, otherwise there is danger of doing incalculable harm instead of good." Then having recognized the need for more skilled attention for the native races, she endeavours to estimate the true value of the second-grade nurse, and arrives at the difficulty that it is impossible to put a value on what is untried. The only standard, therefore, by which to test those suitable for the official seal as qualified is the white standard, and the white woman has to supply credentials of a status generally before she is admitted to any training school, while the native woman would gain her certificate almost entirely through her ability to pass a second-grade examination in theory.

Miss Barker supports with irrefutable arguments her contention: "Grant a second-grade certificate, and the retrograde process would as surely come as night follows day. . . . There is only one safe rule in granting a Government certificate of qualification for nursing, and that is that it shall always be of the first grade, for if we are to prove worthy of those from whom we gained the light and knowledge we now enjoy of the science and art of our profession, our aim must be to hand it on better than we found it. This, our birthright, carries with it great responsibilities towards the native races."

Miss Barker says that while being strongly against instituting a second-grade certificate for native women, all thoughtful people are agreed that every effort should be made to teach and guide them on their upward climb for better conditions. On these lines much is being taught to the girls who work in the wards of native hospitals on the mines under qualified nursing sisters.

### ASSOCIATION OF TRAINED NURSES ENGAGED IN PUBLIC HEALTH WORK.

Her Royal Highness Princess Christian, President of the Royal British Nurses' Association, presided at the Conference of the newly organized Association of Trained Nurses Engaged in Public Health Work on Saturday, March 8th, held at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, London, W.

On her arrival the Princess was received by the Chairman of the Association, Miss Florence Wise, and the members of the Committee which had organized the Conference. Miss Margaret Alderman, the Hon. Secretary, presented to Her Royal Highness a very beautiful bouquet of daffodils and foliage.

#### THE PRINCESS WISHES THE NEW ASSOCIATION SUCCESS.

On taking the Chair, Her Royal Highness said:—

"It gives me much pleasure to preside at your Meeting this afternoon, particularly as it has been represented to me that this is the first Conference organised by the Association of Trained Nurses engaged in Public Health Work.

Such a Conference cannot fail to be useful at this time, when so many problems in connection with Health Work have to be faced, and it gives me peculiar pleasure to find the nurses calling Meetings such as this to discuss health questions.

Before asking your speakers to address the Meeting I should like to wish your new Society every success, and to express the hope that it may have a career of great usefulness before it.

You will be very disappointed to learn that, at the last moment, the Ven. Archdeacon Holmes found it impossible to be present. The nurses, who arranged this Conference, at once got into communication with Mr. Gillie, who shares with the Archdeacon a wide popularity among our nurses. In spite of the fact that Mr. Gillie has to set off on a long train journey at four o'clock this afternoon, he acceded at once to their request, and you will all join with me in thanking him for coming here at no small inconvenience to himself in order to help you. I will not say more just now, as I do not wish to take up unnecessarily the time he can spare to us, more especially as I learn that we can only have the hall for a limited interval this afternoon. I will now call upon Mr. Gillie to address you."

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