

to enable Miss Paterson to meet the Matrons of the leading hospitals, and arranged that at each Lecture a member should take the Chair. At the University town of Stellenbosch Miss Paterson was the guest of the Matron of the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital.

In Johannesburg Miss B. G. Alexander, R.R.C., the progressive and genial Matron of the General Hospital for upwards of twenty years, was most kind and active in helping Miss Paterson. She it was who presided at the representative public meeting to welcome Miss Paterson to Johannesburg, and who also entertained her to dinner in the hospital to meet the assistant matrons and Sisters, also representative nurses from other hospitals. In addition to being the Matron of the General Hospital and head of one of the largest and most admirable Nursing Schools in South Africa, Miss Alexander is the Hon. General Secretary of the S.A.T.N.A.—a most representative organisation increasing in professional influence every day.

This lecture tour will, we have no doubt, give an immense impetus to Public Health Work and Child Welfare throughout the Union of South Africa, and we shall want to hear all about it when Miss Paterson comes home.

Our Australian mail is not very hopeful. We fear the Victorian Nurses' Registration Bill has again been relegated to the fag end of Governmental business, although the Chief Secretary introduced the Bill, and said that several attempts had been made in the past to pass a similar Bill, but all of them had failed. The principal objection to the Bill, and the one that had caused the downfall of the Bill introduced in 1919, was as to the constitution of the Board, which was one of the main provisions of the Bill.

History repeats itself. As at home, the governors of hospitals and medical practitioners in Victoria desire to control the Nurses' Governing Body.

In the meanwhile, nurses are becoming increasingly indignant—though not nearly militant enough to impress the Legislature—and the practical injury to their status by lack of reciprocity at home, in other Dominions, and in the United States, is having the natural effect of discouraging educated girls from adopting nursing as their profession.

A serious position has arisen at Victorian hospitals owing to a shortage of nurses. A few years ago these hospitals had long waiting lists of girls who were anxious to enter the institutions as probationary nurses. During the past

few months they have been forced to advertise to fill the urgent vacancies which occur on their staffs.

Lady Marson states the matter is one of keen anxiety to the hospitals, and wisely adds that young women from good homes are wanted, and it would be most undesirable to lower the standard, as all the fine traditions of the past would be undone.

Miss Edith Outram has received a Red Cross Medal from the Esthonian Government in recognition of her work.

BUSH LIFE.

The service many war-nurses are now rendering in undeveloped parts of the world is from time to time brought home to those remaining in the old country.

The following letter just received by the Society for the Oversea Settlement of British Women (which was instrumental in bringing the correspondent into touch with fresh opportunities in Australia) is a good illustration.

The writer is a widow, an ex-Red-Cross Nurse and Health Visitor in Nottingham and Manchester, and was accompanied overseas by her daughter, aged 13:—

"This has been one of the happiest years I ever spent. Even before I left the boat I was welcomed by a lady who had been sent to meet my daughter and me. The next day was spent in being interviewed by the British Nursing Superintendent, and attending a British Nursing Association meeting at Melbourne Town Hall, when I was presented to Lady Stradbroke, the State Governor's wife, and she asked me to continue my Girl Guide Work in Victoria.

The next day I was off to my district, which is about 80 miles from Melbourne. We are over 2,000 feet above sea-level, but from my garden I can see the sea like a silver band against the sky. The scenery is glorious, but we get a very great deal of rain.

"The first case I had was to go out at night into the bush on horseback to a child with a broken leg. . . . The next morning I had to get the patient on a timber track which runs through the bush to the railway, then to the hospital 20 miles away. Since then I've had many adventures, in fact it is all adventure, but I'm very happy. Of course, I must say I've never worked so hard or roughed it; though I've a dear little cottage, I spend a great deal of time away at my cases. There one has to adapt oneself to circumstances which are sometimes very primitive, but the folk are all so nice that nothing else counts."

VICTORIAN BUSH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

We are informed by the Chief Medical Officer, Australia House, Strand, W.C., that persons nominated to proceed to Australia have, in the ordinary way, to find £22 passage money each. The Victorian Bush Nurses' Association requires six nurses, and the Association will add £1 per month to the nurses' salary so that, at the end of one year and ten months' service, her passage money is recouped.

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