

the case by telegraph and prescribes a treatment in the same way. Medicine chests are scattered locally in the territory at repair posts, police stations and many other centres. From the standard drugs and simple surgical appliances available the sick person must carry out the doctor's orders as best he can.

Marvellous changes are now being inaugurated in some of the back blocks. Flying doctors now extend their services from Cloncurry and Winton to isolated patients far off in the Bush. The condition of the roads, the absence of bridges, and other difficulties no longer impede transportation. The wide range of operation of the aeroplane has made possible the employment of physicians in sparsely settled areas which heretofore could not support a doctor because of the limited number of settlers.

The Australian Inland Mission proposes to extend this, as yet, limited activity. This organization has long been instrumental in supplying Nursing Homes at strategic points in the Outer Bush. Seven of its Homes are now open and an itinerant nurse is also operating in the Innamincka District. It plans to increase this number to eleven Homes, staffed by 22 nurses, during 1926. Gradually the ideal is being approached—having a nurse within one hundred miles of every family in the interior.

This service, however, needs flying doctors to prescribe for the treatment of perplexing cases. The A. I. M. is therefore mapping the central region of the Continent into districts, and proposes to develop the Wireless Services of the Bush into an every-day convenience. The regular Mail Services already in existence will help in this connection. They will furnish the personnel and equipment under contract for carrying the flying doctor.

The mail aeroplanes have rendered other services in addition to regular transport work. Dentists, established in areas served by aeroplanes, are making regular air trips with the necessary equipment to various landing stages in the Bush. Settlers make appointments beforehand so that the dentist's time is not wasted. Similarly, children who have heretofore been without teachers are being formed into classes which will be taught on certain days by itinerant, air-borne teachers. This plan has achieved great success in the areas where it has been tried.

The World's Health gives the following graphic report of the use of the aeroplane in emergency:—

"Mrs. Schmitt, the wife of an administrator in Dosso, a town in British Nigeria, having been bitten by a dog showing symptoms of hydrophobia, a telephone message was speedily sent to Niamey, a town in the French Soudan, over 100 miles distant. An administrator, a doctor and a veterinary surgeon immediately motored over to investigate. After having made a post-mortem examination of the dog, the veterinary surgeon confirmed the theory that it had been suffering from hydrophobia. The nearest Anti-Rabies Institute was at Dakar (Senegal), over 1,300 miles distant, and to have made this journey in anything but an aeroplane would have taken about a month—too late to save the life of Mrs. Schmitt. However, the Governor of French West Africa was notified by telegram, and he immediately gave orders to the Bamabo (Soudan) aerodrome to send two aeroplanes to Dosso. Two days later Mrs. Schmitt arrived at the Dakar Institute in time to receive adequate medical care. Thanks to the effective co-operation of the French authorities who supplied a motor car and two aeroplanes, the wife of a British administrator was thus saved from a painful death.

"The incident in itself demonstrates the necessity of creating and developing regular aeroplane ambulance services in countries having scattered populations and no rapid means of transport. Such difficult circumstances as those cited above are rare, since they involved the transport of a patient over a distance greater than that which separates London and Algiers."

RECEPTION.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S IMPERIAL MILITARY NURSING SERVICE.

The Reception by the Matron-in-Chief and the Members of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, at the Hotel Victoria, on April 14th, was a very charming function, with its delightful blending of courtesy, happiness, kindness and that subtle sense of dignity which a wealth of fine tradition has such peculiar power to bestow. The splendour of the memories that surround the Army Nursing Service, from the Crimea onwards, lingers about these lighter episodes like a grand background, which, though never obtrusive, is yet ever present, and gives an infinite charm and completeness to the Service's Annual Reception. The grey, the brilliant scarlet, and the soft white of the Army dress are, to most of us, a kind of reflection or suggestion of the great place that Nursing has taken in the annals of England's later wars; to those who are the guests of the Matron-in-Chief, they must be associated, too, with a fine courtesy that is not content with a formal hospitality, but must needs be at pains to see that each guest in a crowded assembly has her own particular welcome there. And so it was that a happy enthusiasm was reflected throughout the large gathering in the fine reception room of the Hotel Victoria, an obvious gladness, too, in welcoming new friends and old, and a pleasant readiness to collect in merry groups round the dainty tea tables with their good things and their flowers.

The excellent music was supplied by the Band of the Royal Army Medical Corps, by the courtesy of Colonel Bostock, C.B.E.

VISITS TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

One of the advantages of a Headquarters of the National Council of Nurses at the hub of the universe is that so many interesting colleagues and friends find their way there. Recently we were pleased to receive a visit from Mrs. Greenwald, R.N., Superintendent of the Jewish School of Nursing in Warsaw, and two graduates of the School, Miss Nina Lubowska and Miss Pearl Daw, who have been taking a post graduate course in practical work in the Nursing School at St. Thomas' Hospital.

Now we have just had the happiness of a visit, to which we have looked forward for months, from Miss Gladys Stephenson, S.R.N., President of the National Association of Nurses of China, and Miss Cora Simpson, R.N., one of its General Secretaries.

Of course we talked of ways and means in connection with the meeting of the International Council of Nurses in Peking in 1929, for we have thought the cost of the journey prohibitive, and were delighted to hear from Miss Stephenson that £100 would cover the expense of the trip *via* Siberia. The long sea voyage costs more. That seems to make the possibility of getting to Peking considerably greater than heretofore for many members of our National Council. The Trans-Siberian Railway has a high reputation for comfort, and various of our acquaintances consider that it can give many points to the Canadian Pacific Railway. The train starts from Moscow, and it is likely that the one taking the British Delegates to Peking will also take those of other European countries also.

It may seem rather far ahead to be considering arrangements for the Peking Congress, but consider how far ahead the Helsingfors Meeting seemed in Copenhagen in 1923, and it seemed on us in a flash.

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