

operating the New-York—San Francisco—the Pacific Coast Airways, employs young women on the planes flying between Chicago and San Francisco and Seattle and San Diego, and their official title is stewardess. On each of the big tri-motors carrying passengers and mail over the air-ways, is one of these stewardesses, attractively attired in a green, well-tailored uniform.

Her duties on the plane include the serving of lunch during the flight, the provision of reading and writing materials, the occasional administering of inhalants to those passengers afflicted with air-sickness, answering questions of passengers concerning points of interest, and in other ways increasing their comfort.

The United Air Lines laid down very strict regulations concerning the employment of these young women, most important of which was the fact that they had to be qualified nurses. Traffic officials of the company found that a registered nurse was superior to other types of young women in dealing with people, and in capability to meet emergencies.

In hiring the twelve stewardesses who are now flying on the tri-motored planes being operated on the Coast-to-Coast Limited section between Chicago and San Francisco, several other factors were taken into consideration. For one thing, physical size was important, as weight of pay load is an important consideration in the average passenger plane. Stewardesses average about 110 lb. They are between twenty-one and twenty-seven years of age, and the average height is 5 feet 4 inches.

A highly spiced story of the killing of a man-eating lion in a station of the Universities Mission to Central Africa on the shores of Lake Likoma, has been published in several papers, together with the name of the nurse alleged to have been responsible for the incident, which we have reason to believe is incorrect. As related in *Central Africa*, the official organ of the Mission, the facts are as follows:—"A man-eating lion was prowling about in the villages on the outskirts of Liuli. It managed to seize two people and its roar was heard distinctly on the Mission station at night. The natives (not being allowed guns and no Europeans possessing guns being within reach, as the priest-in-charge was away on ulendo) got a bit desperate, and asked the nurse at Liuli for some poison. She gave them some (a large dose, of course, the cost being 7s. 6d.). Whereupon the men placed it in the carcase of a cow and left the lion to eat its fill. It was completely dazed, of course, and the men managed to get near and kill it with their spears. The lion's name was entered in the out-patients' book, and the nurse in question wondered whether she was justified in spending 7s. 6d. on a lion, but the rest of the staff decided she was, as two of us had to pass close to those villages when returning from ulendo."

We learn from the Report of the King Edward Order of Nurses in South Africa for 1930 that the work of the Order has been affected by the universal depression through which the world is passing, and the Executive Committee state that it is necessary to give serious consideration to the financial position and to endeavour to find means of economising without impairing the usefulness of the work.

The Lady Superintendent, Miss J. E. Pritchard, writing from the Dorothy Centre, Kronstadt, makes the following interesting statement. "I received a letter from Geneva from the Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, saying she had just returned from a tour of the Balkan States. Miss Reimann went on to say:—"In one of the countries the greatest problem was that of rural nursing, and I am very anxious to have some information from you as to your experience in this respect in South Africa, so that I may forward some details regarding your work to the State Health Department of the country in question, with a view to improving conditions there." I was extremely interested to learn from Miss Reimann's letter that the difficulties which face them in the Balkans are very much the same as the problems which confront us in South Africa.

The question of rural nursing is a very serious one and of vital importance to the future of this country. The shortage of nurses becomes yearly more acute, and the existing facilities for the training of midwives are totally inadequate.

Wherever our nurses have been stationed they have been appreciated and the people who have once had trained nurses do not readily go back to the untrained Gamp. Our work has been, and still is, largely pioneer work. In many lonely districts King Edward Nurses have blazed the trail for other nurses to follow."

It is a happy custom in many of the leading hospitals in Canada and the United States of America to celebrate the graduation of each class of student nurses by Commencement Exercises of considerable dignity, and by the Annual Meeting of the Alumnae Association as well as by various social functions, the Alumnae Dinner, to which the graduating class is invited, being the most outstanding. This, we learn from the *Johns Hopkins Nurses Alumnae Magazine*, is the practice in connection with this famous hospital in Baltimore. This year Miss Christina Dick presided in the place of Miss Clara D. Noyes who was unable to be present, and Miss Piper greeted the class of 1931.

Miss Sybil Maclean, who responded for her class, said in part: "The members of class 1931 wish to express to you our deep gratitude for this never-to-be-forgotten reception into the ranks of your noble organization. During these past three years, you have taught us with sweet patience and understanding, and now at the end of this time you have invited us to be co-workers with you, to realize a great ideal, the emancipation of human suffering, physically, mentally, socially, and for these things we sincerely thank you. It is with a feeling of happiness and pride on the one hand, and a sense of awe on the other, that we sit at your banquet table, for we know you have accomplished great things in the past, we know you have much knowledge and experience. Therefore we would be modest in our promises to you for the future. But this we do promise—that we will add as many rays of light, as time, place, circumstances and ability will permit, to the torch of human kindness which you have already lit, to the flame of knowledge, industry, and sacred devotion to duty which you have spread through all these years, to the star of love which shall shine through all the ages."

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