

## GRENFELL OF LABRADOR.

Who that has followed the medical work of Sir Wilfred Grenfell, K.C.M.G., M.D., F.R.C.S., has not thrilled with admiration at the results attained under the Grenfell Association of Great Britain and Ireland (82 Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.1)? The reason for these results may be found in the Annual Report recently issued, which contains a Special Appeal for the endowment of the work in spite of the unpromising outlook due to the financial depression. The Chairman of the Association is Lord Desborough, K.G., and of the Appeal Committee Mr. James Fairbairn, with Sir John Pratt as Appeal Secretary. The Report tells us that in his Address as Lord Rector of the University of St. Andrews two years ago Sir Wilfred Grenfell said, "My own principle has always been when two paths are open to take the more venturesome." It is a fine policy.

When Sir Wilfred—pioneer, doctor, master mariner, scientist, Empire Builder and Christian—first visited the Labrador Coast there was no resident doctor there; now, thanks to his enterprise, there are six hospitals, six nursing stations, five hospital boats, one hospital steamer, three orphanages, four schools, seven industrial centres, two agricultural stations, also summer schools in isolated districts and public health nurses in outlying settlements, a year-around staff of sixty-one persons, and in addition a volunteer staff of one hundred during the summer months, a record of work accomplished which surely merits a response to Sir Wilfred's appeal made at a Mansion House Meeting:—

"I think myself after these many years (nearly 40) one must expect that the journey's end is not so far off as one would like, and we ought to have at least some small endowment to enable things to carry on when the time does come."

Such an appeal did David Livingstone make when returning to Central Africa for the last time, though he specially emphasised the need for workers, and concluded, "I leave it with you."

The friends of the work in Canada, Newfoundland and the United States of America have provided an endowment fund of £120,000 and the London Committee are confident that the people of Great Britain will be glad of an oppor-

tunity to do their part by raising a similar fund for the organisation of the work in Great Britain.

Those who were present at the second Annual Dinner of the British College of Nurses will remember the enthusiasm with which Lady Allardice, wife of the Ex-Governor of Newfoundland, spoke of the work of the Nurses of the Newfoundland Outport Nursing and Industrial Association.

She had, she said, opened a hospital there where the Matron was a disciple of Sir Wilfred Grenfell. The nurses in Newfoundland were the pluckiest in the world. They would go by boat anywhere, at any time, in any weather, to the help of people who had never had a nurse before, and did the most marvellous work. "Some of those," she concluded, "who come out to us marry, then we are thrilled because we know that we have got them for keeps."

The illustrations on this page are of the Flowers Cove Nursing Station, North Newfoundland, and the Forteau Nursing Station,

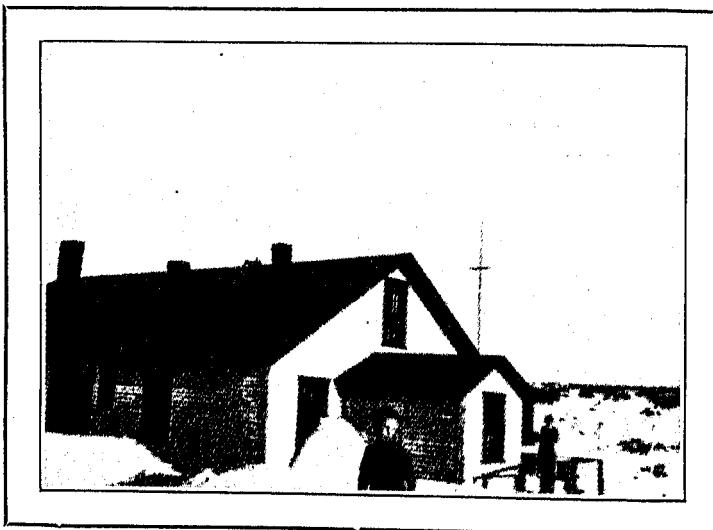
the former Miss M. E. Poppleton writes on her return home of two years spent there: "Besides nursing, the work includes social and welfare work of rather a different order from that done over here. One is brought into closer contact with the fishermen, lumbermen and their families than is usual in less isolated places. This is partly owing to the long distances one has to travel, often making it necessary to stay in the houses of the patients one or two nights before returning to the nursing station, or passing on to the next case. So one can realise more forcibly the difficulties with which they have to contend and the effects—both good and bad—of their particular mode of life."

"On the medical side there are factors peculiar to the area with which one must reckon.

"There is the difficulty—owing to distances—of giving sufficient medical assistance and getting necessary cases to hospital. It takes a lot of moral courage for a sick person—especially if elderly—to face a journey of 60 or 70 miles or more by dog team, which will take anything from two to four days—depending on the 'going.' When occasion arises, and the people consent (and at times it takes a lot of persuasion) everything is done by the friends to make the journey as comfortable as possible. The patient travels in a coach box—a wooden box made rather like a huge



Forteau Nursing Station, Labrador.



Flowers Cove Nursing Station, North Newfoundland.

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