

to diseases that rend and destroy the body's harmony? Well, that is a question for that other aspect of the study of history of which I spoke at the beginning.

The community of St. Katherine's, in Matilda's day, tradition says, consisted of a Master, Brothers and Sisters, and a number of poor people who were to raise prayers for the repose of the souls of Baldwin and Maud and they were to unite with their prayers acts of charity to the poor. Charters by King Stephen and Matilda connected with the foundation of the Hospital exist, and some of them were signed at Hedingham Castle, the seat of the Earls of Oxford, where the Queen died three years after the foundation of St. Katherine's.

(To be concluded.)

THE NURSES' TRAINING COLLEGE, NDEJE, UGANDA.

The Founding of a fine and ennobling Profession for Women in Central Africa.

In an extremely interesting, and attractively printed and illustrated booklet, containing an account of the Mengo Medical Mission, Uganda, in connection with the Church Missionary Society, there is published an account of the Nurses' Training College at Ndeje. The training of native nurses is of the utmost importance, for until this is accomplished it is quite impossible that a nursing staff adequate to the needs of the Protectorate can be maintained.

We are told that, as with most successful mission institutions, the roots of the Nurses' Training College extend back into the far past. In September, 1896, on her start for the mission field, Lady Cook, S.R.N. (then Miss K. Timpson) was hidden by Dr. Lankester to regard as one of her duties the training of the girls of Uganda as native female nurses. Tentative beginnings were soon made and during the next three decades a number of useful ward attendants were evolved, but no really qualified nurses. In the meantime the great war had come and gone, with its consequent upheaval of the whole national outlook in the Protectorate, and a great move forward in the native social and medical services. The publication by the Government of the vital statistics of the country for a series of years showed that the Baganda were a slowly dying nation, the number of deaths exceeding annually the number of births, chiefly owing to the appalling mortality at childbirth and to the ravages of venereal disease. The immediate result was the foundation by Lady Cook of the Maternity Training School with its network of maternity and welfare centres, and the infant born in January, 1919, has grown into a sturdy child. The idea of a Nursing Profession for educated girls, though novel at first, rapidly found favour in the eyes of thoughtful parents and is becoming increasingly congenial to young Baganda women. Action was crystallized by the decision of the Government in 1928 to introduce native female nurses into both male and female native wards when available, and an appeal to the C.M.S. to train them.

After various sites for a hospital had been visited the hospital sub-committee decided on Ndeje, which long experience had proved to be perfectly healthy, adequate grants of land were acquired for a large institution, and Lady Cook obtained a unique gift from His Excellency, Sir William Gowers, the Governor of Uganda, in the shape of a disused government light-railway station at Gayaza. This she had separated into its component parts, carried by lorry to Ndeje, and there re-erected it into a charming little bungalow as a staff house for three workers, a large hostel for twenty-four students, and various out-houses.

A large Maternity Centre which was being completed at the place was enlarged and made into a general hospital for women and children and a men's ward was built. The

Medical Department of the C.M.S. at Salisbury Square, London, sent out Dr. Barbara Grinling as Medical Superintendent, and Miss Joyce Norris, a nurse trained at Guy's Hospital as her helper, and the work of teaching educated girls the theory and practice of Nursing as it is taught at home began in earnest in 1930.

Of the training of these native girls, we read:—

The prospects of this long-planned vocational training for the educated young Baganda women seem very bright. There are twenty-three students in training, several of whom are approaching the end of their third year. It is hoped that a Board of Examiners appointed by the Government will conduct the final or qualifying examination of the students from this and similar institutions that may be started, just as is done in the Maternity Training Schools and thus the way may be opened for State Registration of nurses in Uganda. It should be remembered that most if not all of the students will go on to the Maternity Training School and train for the Uganda Midwives' Board Certificate, thus obtaining the double qualification which so many of the State registered nurses hold in England.

And Dr. Grinling writes: "We have girls from many nations; just at present there are Batoro, Banyoro, Basoga, and Balango, as well as Baganda, and we have had a Muteso. As these girls have been through the central or high schools they all speak Luganda, except the Balango, to whom it is quite new. All the teaching, therefore, is done in Luganda.

Then there is the question of the length of training. There was the General Nursing Council syllabus cut and dried for us, and it seemed wisest to use it. On the other hand, it was said that the girls would never consent to such a long training. After long discussion it was decided finally to adopt the G.N.C. syllabus and three years' training, with a proviso that any girl not completing the full course should receive a letter, should she so desire, stating her capabilities and length of service.

It will be a great day for Ndeje when the first trained nurses, who will also be trained midwives, return as staff nurses to their training school, and will be able to demonstrate to the juniors the real and tangible advantages of a full training and the two certificates.

It is a tremendous work, full of endless possibilities of development, and we are just on the threshold. There are those who think that the time is not yet come for this training; but, always provided we are content to progress slowly, laying sure and firm foundations on which others may build, it seems to me that the time is ripe, because among the many are the few that are to be the pioneers and to lay the foundations for the trained certificated African nurses of the future. We must not look for miracles, but we cannot but realize that these women have in them the making of as fine nurses as will be found the world over. If this is so, are we not justified in going forward, even if the advance be slow, and the failures more apparent than the successes?

We are now at a very critical stage of this work, and we would appeal to everyone to give all the help and encouragement possible to this new and very big step forward in the progress of this country—the founding of a fine and ennobling profession for its women."

LONGER TRAINING FOR BLIND MASSEURS.

The Board of Education has approved an extension of the course—from eighteen months to two years—for blind students at the Massage School of the National Institute for the Blind. Such extension is considered necessary in view of the wide range of subjects, which now include massage, remedial exercises and medical electricity.

All scholarships awarded by the Gardner Trust for the Blind for this particular study will be increased accordingly.

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