

work of the Hospital. In addition to being a centre of healing, the work covered a specialised field of research in which inspiration was needed to advance knowledge.

At the conclusion of our tour of the Hospital, we were conducted to the Matron's sitting-room, where tea was provided. In this charming apartment, Miss Ashby, while presiding, gave us interesting information. That the total number of beds is 39, the average length of stay for an in-patient is about 16.8 days at a cost of £12 15s. 9d. (or £5 6s. 6d. per week). That of the 512 in-patients admitted in 1932, 71 were patients in the private rooms paying from £5 5s. to £12 12s. per week for accommodation, 46 were treated as entirely free cases, and the remaining 395 contributed according to their means. That no patient in a general ward pays more than £3 3s. weekly; those unable to make any payment are admitted free.

#### Patients in Private Wards.

The charges for beds in the private wards are 5 to 6 guineas a week for a two-bed room, and 10 to 12 guineas for a single room. This includes board, lodging and

an address delivered by Mr. G. K. Chesterton, at a meeting published in the Fourth Annual Report.

Mr. Chesterton said that he had no sort of claim whatever to speak in a medical assembly, he was present merely to pay a private debt in testifying to the great help given to a dear friend of his at the Marie Curie Hospital. He reminded the audience that the two great physicists of the sixteenth and twentieth centuries, Copernicus and Madame Curie, were both Poles. Copernicus' discovery furnished a turning point in the history of science, and was one example—the discovery of radium was another—of how a great scientific achievement bestrode the continent of Christendom and knit together nations. But, with all respect to Copernicus and to the solar system, against which the speaker would not utter a word of disparagement, it was more important to have cured one poor old woman, to have freed her from all fear of cancer, than to have discovered the whole truth about the astronomical universe. Thus, as a benefactor of mankind, Mme. Curie was to be enthroned above Copernicus, her fellow-countryman.

ALICE STEWART BRYSON.



The Marie Curie Hospital for Radium Treatment for Cancer.

#### THE ANNUAL DINNER.

The Council is considering arrangements for holding the Annual Dinner. The proposal before them is to emphasise the value to the health of nurses of sport, as recreation. Of late years so many schemes have been organised in the training-schools for well organised physical recreation — swimming, tennis, golf, dancing, riding, etc., and it would appear that it would be well for the public, which finances our hospitals, to be assured that the nursing staff is encouraged through their Leagues and other organisations to take part in healthy sports and pastimes.

nursing. A charge of 1 guinea is made for the use of the Theatre, and 1 guinea for a Laboratory fee. These fees do not include a special nurse, nor fees for medical attendance.

On the nursing staff there are three senior sisters, five junior nursing sisters and eight probationers. A course of lectures is given annually to the nursing staff by the honorary medical staff on "Radium Treatment in Gynæcological Disease," and these lectures are thrown open to nurses in other hospitals and district nursing associations.

On our departure, the members of the Administration Class of the British College of Nurses declared, with acclamation, their thanks and gratitude to our indefatigable hostess, Miss Ashby, for the great trouble she had taken, and her kind forethought that had provided such a delightful and profitable visit. The privilege so graciously extended to the Class by Miss Hurdon, M.D., Director and the Surgeon, to visit the theatre and learn something of radium treatment, was greatly appreciated, and will ever be remembered with gratitude.

In conclusion, it is interesting to quote a passage from

#### A COLLEGE OF NURSING IN MELBOURNE.

##### APPEAL FOR £20,000.

There have been many months of controversy in *Una*, the journal of the Royal Victorian Branch of the Australian Nursing Federation, over the constitution of the proposed Centenary College of Nursing in Melbourne, and the following resolution was carried at the recent annual meeting: "That this meeting expresses its unqualified approval of the action of the Council of the R.V.T.N.A., in safeguarding the interests of the Nurses by objecting to certain clauses in the proposed constitution of the College of Nursing which would allow persons other than nurses, upon the payment of an annual fee, to become members of the College of Nursing." We presume this very real objection has now been removed, as we note that an appeal for £20,000—the first in 100 years for Victorian civilian nurses—is being made to endow a Centenary College of Nursing in Melbourne. The Australian Nursing Federation appeals to Australians overseas to support the effort.

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