

British nurses will be interested to learn that it is the intention of Princess Tsahai, daughter of the Emperor of Abyssinia, to enter the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, as a probationer, with the object, after she has passed through the three months of preliminary training, of taking the full three years' course. After that she intends to obtain further experience in a general hospital. She will live in the Nurses' Home, and receive the salary of a probationer of £20 a year.

During the time of Abyssinia's agony, Princess Tsahai commanded admiration for her dignified endurance, and later for the way in which she publicly espoused the cause of its people and endeavoured to enlist the sympathy of other nations on its behalf. She has given to the world an example of Royal courage and Christian fortitude, not least by her determination, now that she is an exile in a foreign land, to enter the nursing profession and so qualify for a life of service in a world which has treated her so harshly.

The Princess has our good wishes for a successful career and our appreciation of her decision to study nursing seriously.

The Emperor of Abyssinia and members of his family recently visited the Hospital for Sick Children, much to the pleasure of the Nursing Staff.

Miss Edith Ffoulkes Pritchard, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., Sister Tutor at Grey's Hospital, Pietermaritzburg, recently gave an interesting address on the shortage of nurses in South Africa, at a meeting of the National Council of Women, held in the Women's Club in that town. As reported in the South African press, Miss Pritchard claimed that "the only immediate solution to the serious shortage of nurses in South Africa is free importation."

She stressed the seriousness of the local shortage and pointed out that some of the general hospitals were short of 30 staff nurses.

One of the dominating factors which contributed to this shortage was the prosperity which South Africa had enjoyed when money was plentiful, and people could afford the services of private nurses in times of sickness, with the result that no provision was made in the regulations concerning the nursing personnel of the hospitals for the requirements of a growing and rapidly developing population.

During the depression which followed private nurses were hard hit, for no longer were people able to afford to be nursed in their own houses, but sought treatment at hospitals, and the demand continued out of all proportion to hospital development.

Then, too, there was a growing demand for school nurses, clinics, public health officers and rural nurses, and this demand absorbed more and more of the available nurses.

The acute local shortage was due, she said, to a lack of reciprocity of salaries, pensions and other conditions of services between the different provinces of South Africa.

Referring to the question of Native nurses, Miss Pritchard said the difficulty was that the natives lacked general education, which prevented them from becoming efficient nurses. There were two policies advocated with regard to Native nurses. One was that Native women should be trained to become qualified nurses; another was that they should merely be given the training to be Native orderlies. It was highly necessary to obtain a firmer educational basis if the first method was to be adopted.

Referring to the possibility that the training period of nurses might be reduced, Miss Pritchard said this would greatly depreciate the standard and would render future nurses far less efficient. She advocated reciprocity of nurses between the Provinces of South Africa, and said they should be able to obtain transfers without any loss to themselves.

It is interesting to note that H.R.H. Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, who is President of the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, when recently presenting prizes to the nurses at the nurses' annual reunion and prize-giving, referred to the shortage of trained nurses in the Union of South Africa.

The Princess, addressing the nurses, said she must plead with them to give serious thought to the possibility of going out to that distant, but not unpleasant land where splendid professional and social opportunities awaited them.

Quoting from a letter from a distinguished worker for the nursing cause in South Africa, Princess Alice stated that at the present time the shortage was so serious that in private practice untrained women were receiving the same pay as fully qualified nurses, and in Johannesburg nursing homes were being run,

entirely contrary to regulations, with untrained staffs. Emphasising the high standard demanded of qualified nurses in the Union of South Africa, she spoke of the good salaries and the splendid advantages offered to fully trained English nurses, and added: "By following your profession in that country you will serve to strengthen not only the British element there but the Nursing Association's high aims."

The Earl of Athlone was Governor-General of South



PRINCESS TSAHAI,

Daughter of the Emperor of Abyssinia, now training as a Nurse in an English Hospital.

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