

THE RANYARD NURSES REPORT FOR 1937.

The resignation of Miss Irene M. Hett of the post of General Superintendent and Hon. Secretary of the nursing branch of the Ranyard Mission, owing to home claims, will be a very serious loss, as during her term of office she has given devoted service to this very valuable work.

Miss Grace Cracknall has been appointed as General Secretary and Superintendent of the Mission and she will be in office immediately after Easter.

The nursing branch of the Mission has just issued a report of its service for 1937.

The Ranyard Nurses form a body of fully-trained hospital nurses engaged in nursing the sick in their own homes, in various parts of London, working from a sense of Christian vocation and seeking to help the people amongst whom they live, in any way possible. In addition 21 nurses are working at School Treatment centres. Three superintending Sisters visit with the nurses, directing their work and reporting to Ranyard House.

Last year, when the Ranyard Mission celebrated its 80th birthday, a story of its growth and work was published (*The Story of the Ranyard Mission*, by Elspeth Platt, price 1s.) It gives a very vivid description of conditions in London in the early days, and of the seed sown by Mrs. Ranyard, which has developed into the Mission of to-day, with its 62 trained Mission Workers and more than 100 Nurses—with its very thorough free training for mission work and its corresponding training for Nurses in district work.

This year the Nurse Branch is 70 years old and one goes back in imagination to the early days when Mrs. Ranyard discussed with Agnes Jones (then her assistant) the possibility of providing trained district nurses. Four of the "Bible-women," as the first Workers were called, were sent to two of the London Hospitals for four months, and then began nursing work, in 1868—the same year in which the East London Nursing Association began its work in the East End.

We may smile at the thought of such a training, but it was part of the same movement which Mr. Rathbone had begun in Liverpool a few years earlier to provide trained home nursing for everyone in need. It was, too, part of the movement to rescue nursing from the hands of the Sarey Gamps of Dickens and to make it, not only a profession but a vocation, as it had been in the hands of the religious orders of the Middle Ages.

Now the Ranyard Nurses share with the Queen's Nurses and others the district nursing work of London, their sphere lying largely south of the Thames, the various bodies being co-ordinated by the Central Council for District Nursing in London.

In 1937 the Nurses attended 11,170 patients and paid 317,969 visits during the year.

The satisfactory improvement in the financial position is largely due to grants and payments, and we are grateful for the help received from the City Parochial Charities, through the Central Council for District Nursing and also for grants received from the Hospital Sunday Fund, City Companies and other bodies and for the substantial help which is received from payments by the London County Council and the Borough Councils.

It costs £20,000 a year to finance this really beneficent work, towards which the patients contribute £1,437 5s. 11d., so it is most essential that public authorities, County, Borough and District Councils, together with the charitable should contribute generously towards the upkeep of the Ranyard Nurses.

"To the Wise a Fact is True Poetry,
And the most Beautiful of Fables."

Emerson.

THE OPENING OF "CLARENDON HOUSE."

To judge from the report in *The South African Nursing Journal* the opening of "Clarendon House," the beautiful new Nurses' Home in connection with the magnificent new Groote Schuur Hospital, Cape Town, no ceremony could have been more inspiring. The Home was opened by Mrs. Conradie, the wife of His Honour the Administrator of the Cape Province, Mr. J. H. Conradie, with a silver key. The proceedings opened with prayer and Mrs. Conradie addressed the meeting which we publish in full for the benefit of Nurses the world over.

Mrs. Horwood, Chairman of the Groote Schuur Hospital Committee, in thanking the speakers paid a tribute to the splendid work of the previous Matron, Miss F. A. Goodacre, whose advice and guidance had been of inestimable value to the Hospital Board in dealing with the building plans; and to Miss Wilken who, as Assistant Matron had shared with Miss Goodacre the task of building up so fine a Training School at Somerset Hospital, which she (Mrs. Horwood) hoped would carry over to Groote Schuur all its fine reputation for nursing care linked with devoted service. To the indomitable courage and untiring energy of Miss Pike the Board owed a deep debt of gratitude, and to the nursing staff whose self-sacrificing service through all the difficulties of transfer and settling in was beyond praise.

Tea was served in the Nurses' and Sisters' dining-rooms, and visitors greatly enjoyed the opportunity of viewing sections of the Home.

ADDRESS BY MRS. J. H. CONRADIE

(Wife of the Administrator, Cape Province.)

This dignified Home will be called "Clarendon House" as a tribute to the work of Lord and Lady Clarendon in South Africa. It is very fitting that a Home for Nurses should bear the name of the gracious lady whose interests were so closely bound up with Nurses and Nursing Services, and to whom the cause of rural nursing in our country owes a debt we can never hope to repay.

But it was not only her work that has left a lasting impression. The example of her life was a constant source of inspiration and her selfless devotion to duty and to the interests of her fellow-men have left a very sweet fragrance behind. I am sure nothing could be nearer or dearer to her heart than the knowledge that in this Home women were preparing themselves for a life of service and usefulness to their fellowmen, and that many who are in training now would answer the call that so insistently comes from the rural areas for the services of qualified nurses. May her memory live and her spirit be ever present in the Home that bears her name.

The opening of this beautiful Nurses' Home is an event of great significance, not only to the Mother City, but to the whole country, and I am greatly honoured at being given the opportunity to associate myself with what I consider to be a red-letter day in the history of Nursing in South Africa.

I look upon this Home and the manner in which it has been planned and equipped as a recognition by the Provincial Administration, the Cape Hospital Board and the public generally of the value and the importance of the work of the women whose home this will be; and a recognition of the fact that if efficient, conscientious and devoted service on the part of the Nurse is looked for and expected, her welfare and happiness should be matters of first-rate concern to those in authority.

I am proud of the lead the Cape Hospital Board has given the country in this respect, and while all Hospital Boards may not be in a position to provide for their Nurses on the same liberal scale, yet it is incumbent upon all to see that with the means at their disposal their Nursing Staffs are given the maximum amount of comfort.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)