

I am glad to have the opportunity to pay warm tribute to the Hospital Board for their foresight in providing for this Home in their Groote Schuur Hospital Scheme; and particularly do I wish to mention the names of the Chairman, Mr. W. James, and of the Chairman of the Groote Schuur Hospital Committee, Mrs. Horwood. On their shoulders the burden of responsibility for this great work has rested most heavily. They gave themselves literally body and soul to this great task and supplemented one another's work in splendid manner. Mrs. Horwood's work for the welfare of our Hospitals and for the promotion of Nursing Services and the interests of nurses is work of which every woman must be proud.

I said that provision for the comfort of the Nurses had been made on a generous scale, since they have been given attractive bedrooms with comfortable and sleep-inducing beds (how greatly every weary Sister and Nurse will bless the Board for these!); restful sitting-rooms, beautiful dining-rooms and recreation rooms have been provided, all planned and furnished with the deliberate intention of stimulating the Nurse's sense of appreciation of what beauty and order mean to the sick and to the well.

I have visions of other amenities that I hope will in good time be added to these—tennis-courts, swimming baths, comfortable seats under shady trees, and last but not least, an attractive and well-run tea-room.

There is the possibility of making of the Groote Schuur Hospital with all its component parts one of the happiest and most beautiful self-contained communities in the Cape Peninsula.

I would point out to you, however, that behind this scene of beauty and comfort there is a dark background of sickness and suffering, and that we shall look largely to this Training-School and to the Clarendon Home to give us the men and women who will devote themselves to bringing that dark background into harmony with our ideal of a healthy nation.

There is great wastage of life and physical power through the prevalence of preventable diseases such as Tuberculosis and Venereal Disease; there is for a country with a small European population an appalling wastage of the young Motherhood of the country owing to lack of trained Nursing Services; there is a sad lack of knowledge in the rearing of children in a way that will make of them worthy and useful citizens. There are thousands of children coming into the world under handicaps that weigh them down all their lives owing to ignorance on the part of the parents.

May this Home give us women who will go out as health apostles to teach and heal and bring about those reforms which very often only women can bring about.

"Clarendon House" will play a big and very important part in training the young women who are offering themselves for the nursing service of our country—one of the most important of our National Services and one which can never and should never be chosen merely as a means of livelihood.

Here we hope they will be inspired to make the principle of service, of usefulness and devotion to the interests of their fellow-men the fundamental and guiding principle of their lives.

The success of a Nurse does not depend solely upon the certificate she possesses but very largely upon the spirit by which her work is actuated. Diplomas only are no guarantee of efficiency; no amount of technical training or of book-knowledge can make a Nurse; there must be added to these those indispensable qualities and noblest of possessions—Character and Sympathy. In connection with this let me quote to you the last word of that incomparable nurse, Florence Nightingale, to the "*Health Missioner*."

"The work that tells is the work of the skilful hand directed by the cool head and inspired by the loving heart."

This is an epitome of her own mode of work. Let this be the motto of the Nurses of Clarendon Home: A skilful hand, a cool head and a loving heart.

There are great advantages to be derived from training in a big General Hospital like Groote Schuur in the wealth of experience it has to offer in the diversity of personal contacts that are made possible; but it naturally also has its disadvantages, and one I would warn Nurses to guard against is the tendency to look upon patients merely as cases instead of as individuals, and to nurse the body and become forgetful of the spirit which may be crying out for healing. To a patient in convalescence cheerful attention, a little encouragement and sympathetic understanding may mean all the difference between a slow and a speedy recovery.

I would also point out the importance to Nurses of keeping up their outside interests and activities, as these must supply them with the mental and physical refreshment without which they cannot hope to have a stimulating influence on their patients either in sickness or in convalescence.

If I might be allowed to direct a few remarks to the young women in training, I would say that I consider you to be very fortunate to be able to serve under a Matron of such outstanding and proved ability as Miss Pike, who, by virtue of her wide experience and sympathetic personality is well qualified to be a friend and counsellor to her Nurses. Miss Pike believes in the excellent qualities of the South African girl and her suitability for the Nursing Profession. May her faith in you never be put to shame.

And finally, I would entreat you to let your aims be kept high; do not be satisfied to be just one of a large number; rise above mediocrity and aim to qualify for leadership. The time must come when the South African girl will be called to fill the highest positions in the profession—see to it that you are not found wanting. Make sure that in Clarendon Home high standards of conduct and efficiency are set up and maintained, and help to build up around your Hospital and Home a tradition which will be a help and inspiration to all succeeding generations of Nurses.

INDIA'S FIRST WOMAN SURGEON-GENERAL.

India's first woman surgeon-general has been appointed in the State of Travancore.

She is Dr. Vaidya Poonen Lukose, senior surgeon and superintendent of the women and children's hospital, Trivandrum, and she will succeed Dr. James Simpson from September next.

Dr. Lukose has done much useful work as a nominated member of the Travancore Legislative Assembly.

WORD FOR THE MONTH.

THE WORLD'S DARLING SPRING.

"Pale crocuses have come before her,
Wild birds her welcome sing;
Ten thousand loving hearts adore her,
The grey World's darling Spring."

W. M. Elton.

THE PRIMROSE

"Lady of the Spring,
The love flower that first doth show her face;
Whose worthy prayse the pretty byrds do singe,
Whose presence sweet the wynter's colde doth chase."

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