

with two beds for cases needing quiet is the rule in Toowoomba, but there are two large wards, one of 30 and one of 24 beds. All wards were heated with radiators, and had running hot water. The beds are fairly far apart.

The ward is a large temporary shelter, where the windows are much wider and a general air of happiness prevailed. Perhaps it was the temporary appearance of the wooden shed, for it was hardly more, that encouraged the patients to think their troubles temporary. Perhaps being away from the main building, there was a slackening of discipline. I have never been able to explain why some wards are happier than others, but I feel convinced that they are, and that my impressions are not imaginary. I remarked here to a nurse: "I like that temporary ward," and she answered promptly: "Oh, yes, that is the popular one."

The new maternity block is brick built, and has thirty beds, some in private wards, some "intermediate" (*i.e.*, about £3 3s. a week), with two or four beds and some public with eight to 10 beds. It was a very pleasant and well-arranged building. The children's ward too, of 20 cots, was bright and jolly, and there were two nice little "eye wards" of four beds each.

The Nurses' Home is in the grounds and is a two-storied building, with wide verandahs allround. Each nurse has only a small cubicle, but each has its own window opening on the verandah. Having been told that the hanging cupboards had sloping roofs, so that nurses could not litter them up with boxes, I was most amused to note what contraptions had been arranged so that boxes and oddments should remain balanced there, however precariously.

There was a fair number of bathrooms and shower baths and also rows of wash-basins, with cold-water taps in the passage. These are hardly ever used. No wonder! There are often frosts in Toowoomba, and the mere sight of those cold-water taps in a tearing draught froze out of me any enthusiasm I might have had for the Nurses' quarters.

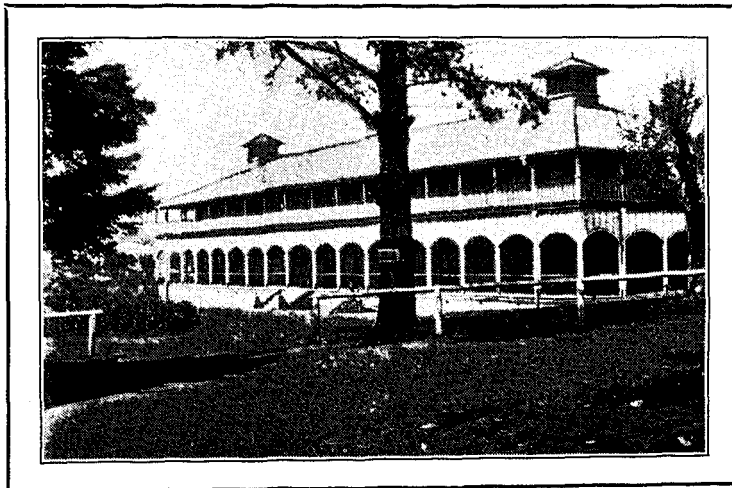
I saw a small sitting-room and was told there was a large room where dances were often given, and also a large dining-room. Food comes from the main kitchen and, though put in a heating cupboard, is never served really hot.

Toowoomba Hospital has 200 beds, including the 20 in the isolation. It is staffed by 13 sisters and 63 nurses in

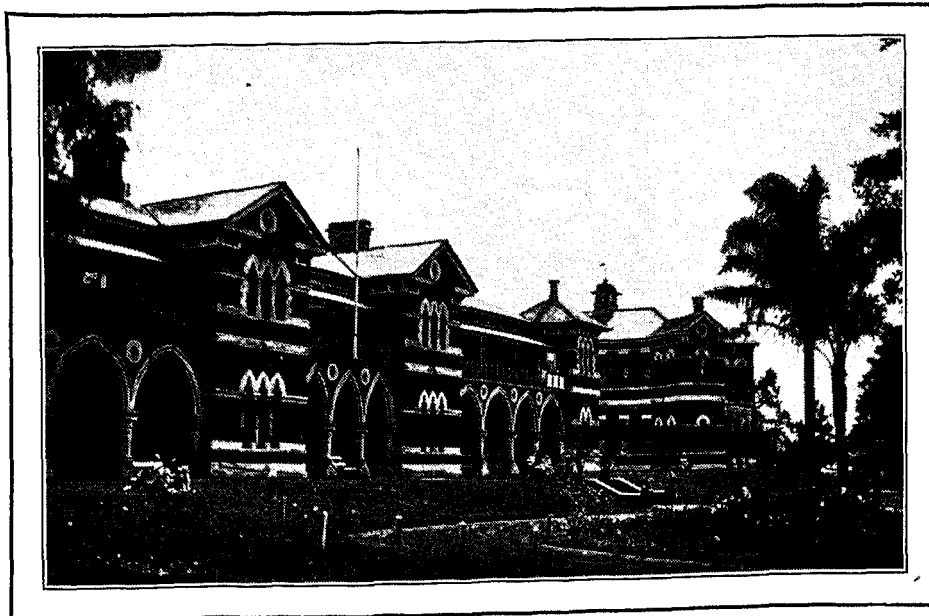
training, but the proportion of trainees to sisters is increasing. It is a training school, the course being for four years. Applicants must be 18 years of age, and have passed an "intermediate" examination or else they must take a similar examination set by the hospital. For the first year trainees are paid 12s. a week, the second year 15s., the third year 23s., and the fourth 25s. The eight-hour day award for nurses in New South Wales is not applicable in Queensland, where the hospitals manage with two shifts of nurses.

Matron told me she never had any difficulty in securing applications for nursing training from a very good type of girl.

It is interesting to learn of Nursing conditions in the Dominions and elsewhere, never forgetting that climate and customs react on practical conditions, and that girls in Queensland are alive to their duty.



THE NURSES' HOME, GENERAL HOSPITAL, TOOWOOMBA.



THE GENERAL HOSPITAL, TOOWOOMBA, QUEENSLAND.

MURDEROUS BOMBING IN CHINA AND SPAIN.

Those of us who have dear friends in China and Spain read of the murderous bombing of civilians with indignation, and resent the apparent futility of the Great Powers in such barbarous conditions. They protest and protest, but apparently there the matter ends. We wonder how Gladys Stephenson and her devoted helpers in hospital at Hankow are faring.

A warning to foreigners to leave Hankow in view of the military situation has been issued, but we realise that the last to leave will be the devoted Nurses who have lived through such horrors of late. Women, children, war refugees, and wounded will be moved first. Owing to the Japanese advance, Offices of the Chinese Government, which are at Hankow, are being moved.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)