

summarise the story of the hospital and the development of the town in one short sentence taken from the book. "From a small mud hut, measuring 12 ft. by 18 ft., which housed patients, doctor and nurse, Adelaide has grown to need a healing space for broken humanity that covers acres of ground with 150 doctors (resident and honorary) and a nursing staff that numbers nearly three hundred."

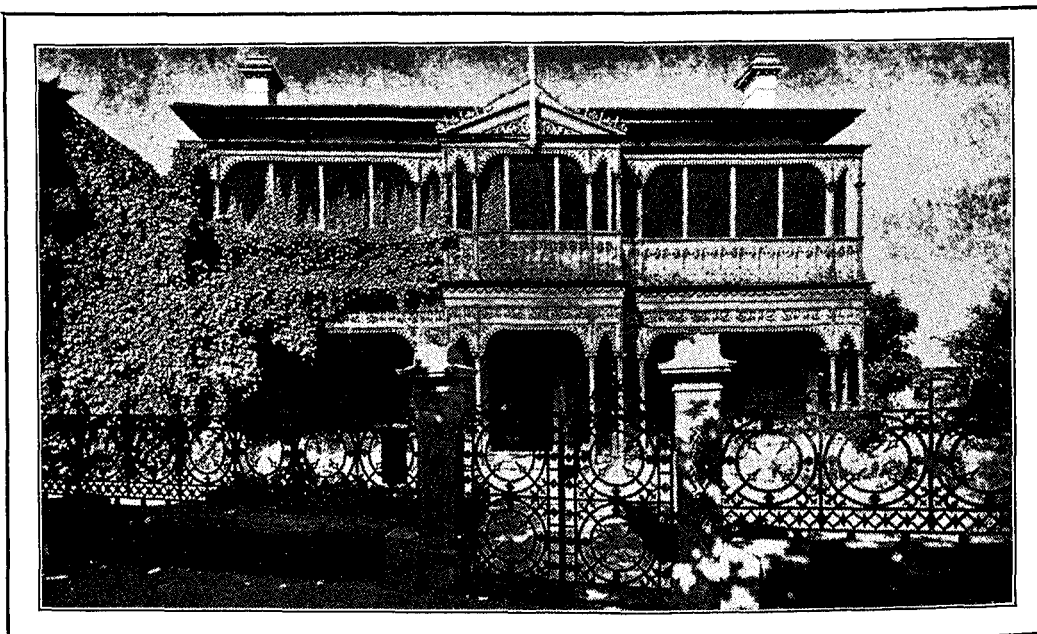
Judging from details given, the doctors at first had but little confidence in women nurses. In 1856 the wife of the dispenser acted as matron, and then in 1889 came Miss Thackwaite from England. Judging from her portrait she appears capable and intelligent and well qualified to introduce those methods of nursing that had arisen under the Nightingale régime. She was succeeded by Miss Banks. The latter was followed by Miss Graham, who is to be regarded as the founder of the South Australian Branch of the Royal British Nurses' Association. Miss Graham was succeeded by Miss Harrald who, in her turn, was succeeded by Miss Daw, the present Matron.

Throughout the volume there appear, from time to time, short sketches from the pens of nurses, word pictures indicative of what a nurse's life was like in the different grades and at different times. Many of us will recognise in Miss Nance Robinson's description of Hilda, the ward-maid, the wet blanket, of our probationer days. Another contributor tells how she worked from six to six on night or day duty, and was paid five shillings weekly, out of which she had to provide indoor and outdoor uniform. Both winter and summer uniforms were of navy serge with voluminous skirts. "The hideous little caps" had blue bows on them, and it was a welcome innovation when, on the

death of the chemist, they were allowed to have black ones, which seem to have remained until bows went out of fashion, in so far as uniform is concerned. The writer started training at fifteen and a half, but admits that she added two years to her age in order to gain admission. At nineteen she was in charge of a ward. Most entertaining of all these personal reminiscences, which add so much that is vivid to the volume, is the tale of "the man who kicked the bucket." This hero was "Dear Dr. Dunlop," and to him is due the gratitude of the South Australian Nurses, for he it was who abolished the scrubbing brush, so far as they are concerned. The writer tells of how he came upon her scrubbing "a passage about a mile long or so, we said." He asked what she was doing and was informed that she was to scrub until she met the girl at the other end. Thereon he kicked the bucket and said, "There'll be no more scrubbing." The narrator tells with what "fearful joy" she mopped up the one-time contents of that bucket after rushing to tell her colleague at the other end of the passage the good news that "Dunlop had kicked the bucket and there would be no more scrubbing!" And there was

not from that day. There are tales, amusing enough in retrospect, of the limpness of caps and aprons on the introduction of Lister's carbolic spray, and the details of personal disinfection also are entertaining in more advanced times. A nurse, going off duty from an infectious case, would place a flat pan of burning sulphur under a cane-bottomed chair and sit on the latter for as many minutes as she could spare.

The chapter dealing with mental nursing is specially interesting. In 1841 Dr. McGregor, after having opened Moorcroft House Asylum, wrote to the Governor regarding the plight of pauper lunatics and altruistically offered to take them into his own house for a "stipend" of £100 a year. Ultimately the Colonial Surgeon was made responsible and part of the gaol was set aside for the patients. Thereafter North Terrace Asylum was built. Here we are told that the discipline of the staff was strict, the building was scrupulously clean and the principal duty of the nurses was to encourage the patients to live normal lives. There were indoor and outdoor amusements and,



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to a certain degree, occupational therapy had been adopted, for the men made hats and boots and the women did needlework. We have referred to Mental Nursing, but every branch of special nursing including public health work and child welfare finds its place in this book.

The story of the foundation of the South Australian Branch of the Royal British Nurses' Association is related and of the establishment also of the South Australian Branch of the Australian Trained Nurses' Association. The establishment of State Registration in South Australia is recorded and many details regarding the system and education required under the Act are given.

Not the least fascinating feature of the publication is the fact that it is profusely illustrated, commencing with a beautiful picture of Queen Adelaide. There is a sketch of the pise hut and one of the fine hospital of the present day. Then there are very many portraits of eminent nurses which we find most interesting, along with a beautiful one of the present Matron, Miss Daw; there are other pictures of prominent medical men and others who have been connected with hospitals or influenced nursing activities in

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