"Nursing in South Australia." *

First Hundred Years, 1837–1937.

THE study of the second edition revised, and enlarged, of this charming publication—The story of the first hundred years of nursing in South Australia brings to the reader not only a fine, enthralling nursing history, but also something of the amazing progress made in the south of the great continent of Australia. Also added to the century's record and included in this volume is a supplement in which is recorded their work at home and abroad, of South Australian nurses during the Second World War 1939–45. Most arresting, throughout the volume, are the charming illustrations of the pioneers and outstanding personalities, of hospitals, of cities, and of special professional events—and of these a veritable galaxy of the century; as we turn the pages there moves before us generations of nurses, past and present, in which is portrayed in kaleidoscopic clearness the

six months' voyage in tiny and hideously uncomfortable vessels to venture their all in an almost unknown land."

Only a year later, in 1837, the Adelaide Hospital was founded; then a pise hut measuring 12 ft. by 18 ft., set in what was then considered " an unoccupied desert," a far cry from its present noble structure with its 24 wards, 600 beds, and nearly 300 nurses.

Thus we follow the amazing progress, fraught with great hardship and self sacrifice suffered by the dauntless and courageous pioneers of South Australia, and where we now see the Adelaide Hospital, the Mecca of training schools !

The great advance in every branch of the profession is recorded with remarkable detail of matrons and trainees, qualifications and careers, relevant to the many and various hospitals and institutions concerned, and the prestige and high order of South Australian nurses stands unchallenged in the forefront of professional ethics of our time.

"Reminiscences" by matrons, and "My Training Days" and " Hospital Nights " by nurses, bring a humorous

Headquarters of the South Australian Branch of the R.B.N.A.

very atmosphere of their time, ever on the quest of the highest standard in the art of healing. The story, too, of the various philanthropic institutions, and of those workers interested in them, is also told.

The book opens with a reproduction of the well-known engraving of Her Most Gracious Majesty The Queen Amelia Adelaide Louise Therese Caroline Wilhelmina, followed by a picture of Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester and Their Royal Highnesses Prince William and Prince Richard.

In her introduction, Lily M. Hurst, Chairman, S.A. Trained Nurses' Centenary Committee, in expressing the appreciation of the wonderful work accomplished by the pioneer nurses, declares that it is " to these women we dedicate our book."

An early chapter introduces the reader to the history of South Australia, recording that " In 1833 Sturt brought to England the news of Barker's discovery of Port Adelaide…" and eventually " in 1836 men and women set forth on the

touch—in times much changed, which, though hard, were happy. We feel very near of kin to our Australian colleagues, and proud to note the fine headquarters of the Royal British Nurses' Association, South Australian Branch —to read that this Association was founded in England in 1888 (as some will remember by Dr. and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick—the first women's organisation to have recognition by Royal Charter).

Turning to the supplement, "South Australian Nurses, Their Work at Home and Abroad " relates another story of high endeavour.

Most arresting is the literary contribution of the numerous articles describing their experiences written by officers and members of the nursing service; combined they make a great story well told.

In the compilation of this volume, the South Australian Centenary Committee and Miss M. E. Bottrill, the Hon. Treasurer, are to be congratulated on this literary triumph, for we feel this is a masterly, inspiring and wholly delightful book.   A.S.P.