

steps to take, and with force of character, to ensure those steps being taken.

A very great work lies before the nurses of the Dominion, and we want our own nurses to take the work up. There is no risk about it. A nurse is not called to start work in a place where there is doubt whether she will earn her bread and butter. She is assured of an adequate salary: £100 a year, and £50 allowance for board, which can be had for less than that sum in the country; whether her patients are able to pay for her services or not; whether she has enough patients to earn so much or no. She has no anxiety as to ways or means, that is the concern of the Hospital Board under which she works, and of the Government, which gives a share towards her maintenance. She may have busy times, when she may have to press volunteers into her service; but there will be other times when she may make holiday, and when the country people will do all possible to help her do so. Therefore she should be possessed of still another quality—that of geniality and sociability. She must be able to make herself one with the people among whom she lives; to share their amusements as well as to soothe their pain.

We hope that in the future we may be able to boast in the Dominion of a well organised Army Nursing Service, and we know that nurses are eager to enrol themselves in such a band. This "back-blocks" nursing service may not present so glittering and attractive an appearance, but there is no doubt whatever that those nurses who join it will get to the front, and be in the thick of battle with disease and death long, long (we hope) before the Sisters of the Army Nursing Reserve are called up to serve in grim reality.

We have heard from Miss Amy Hughes, who was staying at Government House, Sydney, that she fears the short time at her disposal for the special purpose for which she came to Australia, viz., the organisation of Lady Dudley's Bush Nursing Scheme, will not allow her to visit New Zealand. We regret very much that the nurses of New Zealand will not have the privilege of meeting this distinguished nurse, whose work is well known to all nurses who read the current literature of their profession. We reprint the article written by her for the A.T.N.A. Journal, as follows:—

"General attention has recently been drawn to the subject of District Nursing, owing to the great scheme suggested by Her Excellency the Countess of Dudley to ensure a supply of district nurses for the Commonwealth of Australia.

Special interest now attaches to the movement in consequence of the suggestion that it should be established as a Memorial to King Edward VII, who took a personal interest in all that affected the ultimate good of the community. It is well to note that the conditions concerning district nursing in Australia to-day are almost identical with those which existed in Great Britain in 1889, when the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute was founded; the origin of that movement being the Jubilee gift of the women of Great Britain to their late beloved Queen. The endowment fund of the Institute was thus collected by them, the contributions being largely made up of small sums of money.

In Great Britain, as in Australia at present district nursing was first established in the cities, and there were not above 200 nurses thus employed when Queen's Nurses were started. In Canada matters were even less forward, when, in 1897, the Royal Victorian Order of District Nurses for Canada was established in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of the good Queen. It was found necessary practically to establish district nursing in the towns before extending it to the outlying districts.

In comparison with Canada, Australia to-day possesses the great advantage of already having excellent hospitals established in nearly every small town. In Canada, these have had to be erected, as part of the scheme of district nursing.

The many difficulties suggested at the beginning of both the Mother Country and in Canada, have gradually proved capable of removal, and experience alone will show how the details of the system can be best applied in the various States by local committees.

The first step in district nursing is to obtain fully qualified nurses, and in Australia the nursing profession has solved this question. The principle of registration organised by the A.T.N.A. and its sister branch, R.V.T.N.A., prevents any danger of an unqualified woman being enlisted in this national service of district nursing.

All trained nurses realise the difficulties to be encountered when they first leave