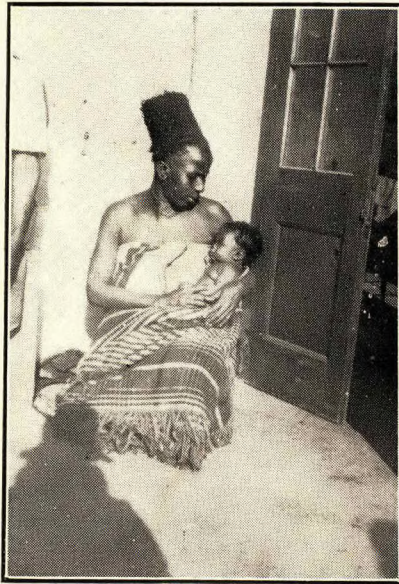


(23)

S. MARY'S NATIVE MISSION HOSPITAL

KWA MAGWAZA, ZULULAND

SEPTEMBER, 1931



“The world hath no such flower in any land,
And no such pearl in any gulf the sea,
As any babe on any mother's knee.”

SWINBURNE.

REPORT

on inspection of S. Mary's Native Mission Hospital,
Kwa Magwaza, Entonjaneni District, Zululand,
carried out on 12th September, 1930.

The Secretary for Public Health,
Union Buildings, Pretoria.

In accordance with your instructions, I visited this Hospital on the 12th instant.

A previous inspection of this institution was made by myself in September, 1927, when I furnished a detailed report. As reported then, the Hospital is very well conducted and carries out extremely useful work among the Natives.

In my previous report I recommended its recognition as a Training Institute for non-European midwives. This was acted upon. Subsequently it was also recognised for training of non-Europeans in general nursing.

Certain improvements have been effected since my last visit. These include a brick-built operating theatre, with an impervious floor, and a good table, a dressing room, and a dark room for ocular examinations.

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REMARKS:

As mentioned above, this is a very well conducted Hospital carrying out very useful work. Any assistance that can be given it is justified by the excellent work being done among the Natives.

I gained the impression in Zululand that Venereal Disease is very prevalent, and probably on the increase among the Native population. It is very desirable, therefore, that reliable institutions of this nature should be encouraged to carry out anti-venereal work.

(Sgd.) E. H. CLUVER,
Asst. Health Officer, Union.

REPORT



The New Ward for Women and Children.

1907



The S. Mary's Native Nursing Staff.

The training of Native nurses proceeds satisfactorily. For some years we have had to be content with probationers who have passed out of Standard VI, but now girls of higher Standards are offering themselves for training. At present there are three who have taken part in the teacher's course. Also among this year's probationers there is a Standard VII, a Standard VIII, and a girl who has gained a domestic science certificate. Several of these nurses will be eligible to sit for the examination for the Government certificate in general training as well as in midwifery.

Higher education does not necessarily make for higher efficiency as a nurse, but it is a great help, especially in her first year, as she knows more English and is quicker at understanding the lectures and at note taking. Also, she has more than a little idea of the laws of health and a good groundwork in anatomy and physiology.

In the original scheme of the nursing curriculum each probationer took her turn in doing the cooking and the laundry for the patients. This plan was stopped for a time and outside help was hired for both the cooking and laundry of the hospital.

This, however, was not satisfactory; the work was not so well done, and the probationers lost the good resulting from the real grind of hard, methodical work—work that

will prove most useful to them in their nursing careers after they leave their training school and have to arrange for the feeding and the laundry in their own little hospitals.

The present staff consists of two staff nurses, who have completed three years general training, one pupil midwife, two third year nurses and seven probationers. The pupil midwife, who is shortly leaving S. Mary's having finished both her general and maternity training, is taking up work in the Government Hospital at Empangeni. During her four years' training she has made wonderful progress and, in spite of much that she has had to fight against, she is proving a trustworthy and capable nurse, one whom we can expect to uphold the standard of S. Mary's Training School.



Some of our little Patients.

A "FESTA" IN ZULULAND

The dawn of Corpus Christi Day shone bright and clear with that glorious freshness with which the winter of our "Sunny South Africa" invigorates those who are privileged to dwell in these happy parts. We were thankful for the prospects which the rising sun foretold, for even in Africa a winter day can be anything but pleasant for an outdoor function. It was to be a great day, for first of all we were

to thank God for His Blessed Sacrament and, secondly, we were to bless and dedicate to His honour and glory the new extension of S. Mary's Hospital.

The morning saw all hands busy with the preparations for the afternoon's "Festa." Everything necessary for the religious ceremony had to be taken from the Church to the Hospital. A host of willing helpers gathered round the pots, well filled with meat and other dainties dear to the Bantu hearts, and upon which they would feast to their heart's content when the solemn events of the day were over. The spirit of joy predominated over everything and this was, of course, just as it ought to be.

At 1 p.m. work was put aside and instead of boys going for their afternoon's work to the fields and carpenter's shop, and girls to the wash tubs and needlework, one and all trekked to the Hospital, thankful, no doubt, that this time they were free from bodily ailment.

At 3 p.m. all was ready. Crowds of Natives had long been on the spot—the Native nurses in their spotless uniforms, Native servers in their cassocks, the uplifted crucifix, banners, candles, and smoking censers, together with the sun shining over all, made a brilliant spectacle as the procession wended its way, calling upon God Almighty to cast out evil and stay the ravages of sickness.



Blessing the New Theatre.

The first stop was made at the well-equipped theatre which was duly blessed, and a special prayer was offered for the doctors and nurses who would be called upon to exercise the wonderful discoveries of medical science. From the theatre we proceeded to the spacious wards for women and men, again asking for God's blessing and an outpouring of His healing gifts. As we entered these buildings to bless them in His name the thought must have occurred to all of the inadequate accommodation from which the sick had only just been removed.

Finally we came to the maternity wards and specially remembered the tender care of Blessed Mother Mary for her Divine Child; we ended our devotions with the prayer Our Lord had taught us, together with His Mother's special prayer: "Hail! Mary, full of grace pray for us."

The solemn blessing of the new buildings being completed, the procession reassembled once more at the Chapel, where the Blessed Sacrament had been reserved.

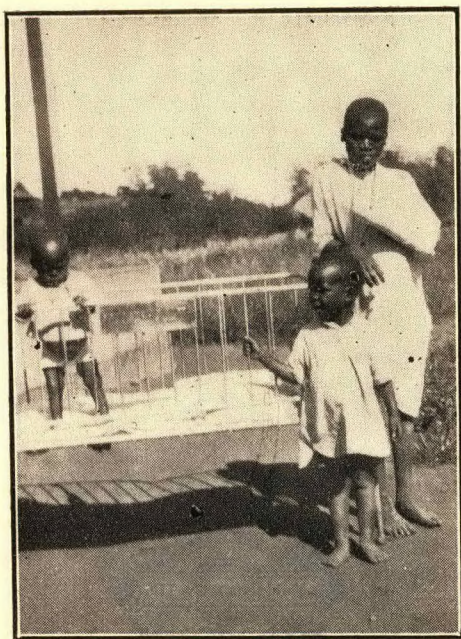
Now the great "Corpus Christi" procession sets forth and our Lord in His sacramental glory passes by, giving His love and healing power to the sick as He did in the days of His earthly sojourn. The Native nurses had the privilege of scattering flowers before the Blessed Sacrament, whilst the children from the school, and the huge concourse of Natives sang the praises of our King. Indeed it was a day that will not be forgotten.

The religious ceremony finished, we were all glad to attend to the refreshment of the body. The Natives, I need hardly assure you, did full justice to the efforts made by the cooks on their behalf, whilst the European staff speedily showed their appreciation of all the good things prepared for them.

So ended a most happy day, and I am sure at this moment of writing, when every bed in the Native wards is occupied, there are many with grateful hearts for the efforts that have been made for the relief of sickness amongst the Zulu people.

V. H. HODDINOTT.

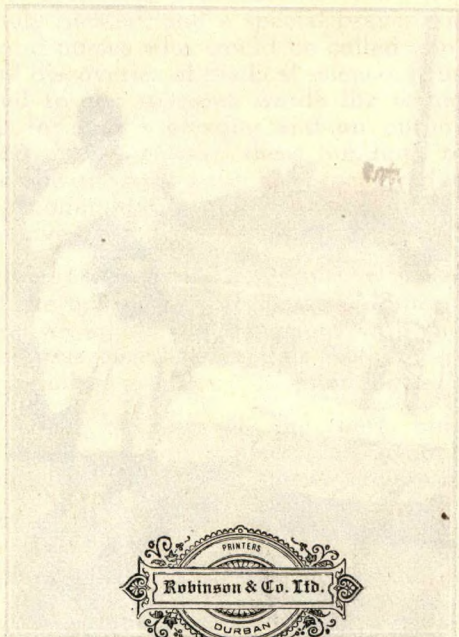
June 26th, 1931.



S. Joseph's Cot.

Just to show the necessity of an institution like S. Mary's, we quote the following from "The Natal Mercury," of 8th April, 1931:—

"In East London it was said that the death rate among White infants was 65 out of 1,000, but the death rate of Native infants, on the same scale, was 400. In Johannesburg recently there had been a discussion among doctors, some of whom said Native infant mortality there was 900, while others said it was more."



Just to show the necessity of an institution like the St. Mary's we give the following table. The total mortality of 8th April 1911—mortality of children in hospital was 1.5 per cent. In London it was said that the death rate among White infants was in 1909, but the death rate of native infants on the same scale was 1.00. In Johannesburg recently there had been a discussion among doctors some of whom said native infants mortality there was 300, while others said it was more."

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