

ANNIE BERTHA CONYNGHAM



ANNIE BERTHA CONYNGHAM, born in 1874, the eldest but one of a family of nine was brought up on a farm on the South Coast of Natal at Ifafa.

She trained as a nurse at Grey's Hospital, Pietermaritzburg during the time of the Boer War (1898-1901). In 1902 she sailed for England with military wives and patients and was the only trained nurse on the ship. Whilst in England she took her Midwifery and Massage training before returning to South Africa. After this Miss Conyngham did private nursing for some years and when the 1914-18 war broke out, she joined the Queen Alexandra Imperial Nursing Service and served in England and Salonika for some time. On the way to Salonika the boat stood by to take off wounded from Gallipoli — having no equipment for such nursing. They then sailed for Malta with the idea of leaving patients there only to find the Island was full. They had to sail to Gibraltar to land the wounded there. There they transhipped and sailed for Alexandria where they were told to go to Salonika. They were attacked by Zeppelins several times.

Miss Conyngham was invalided out in 1916 and sailed for South Africa where she continued with her nursing.

She took up Christian Science about this time and later became a practitioner. She went to Boston to the Mother Church. Later she adopted a little girl, Elsa, (now Mrs. Cooper), bought land in Pinetown and had a house built. She lived there for 30 years. After this she sold her house and went to the Knole Rest Home at Gillitts where she died on the 13th December, 1969 at the age of 95.

She joined the Sash in 1955 and attended the first meeting in Durban together with her sister Miss Beryl Conyngham and Miss Middleton. She never missed a Sash stand until prevented by illness, and took a keen interest in all its activities.

Athlone Advice Office

Annual Report

The Work of the Advice Office

This has continued much as usual, with just enough success to make it worth while. There is less and less we can do in the face of revised regulations tightening up the management of African townships. These regulations were gazetted on June 14, 1968 and came into effect on August 1st, 1968.* The results have become very noticeable in the prescribed area of the Cape Peninsula during the past year.

New Regulations

(a) Housing permits may be allocated only to males who are South African citizens and over 21 years of age who qualify under Section 10 1 (a) or (b) of Act 25, 1945 as amended to live in the prescribed area concerned (i.e. by virtue of birth or long residence), and are employed there and have dependants who normally live with them there. Other families or individuals who qualify to remain in the prescribed area may be accommodated as lodgers with a householder if they can find such accommodation. There are in all 9 conditions which have to be satisfied before housing permits are issued to such people.

(b) Housing permits may be cancelled with 30 days notice, among other reasons, if the holder is for a continuous period of 30 days unemployed or not following some lawful trade or occupation (except in cases of illness). The permit may also be cancelled if the holder ceases to be, in the superintendent's opinion, a fit and proper person to reside in the township, or if a holder is convicted of an offence and is sentenced to imprisonment without the option of a fine for a period exceeding 6 months. There are in all 15 ways in which a householder may have his housing permit cancelled.

(c) Special permits for family housing are issued to employees or representatives of a church, school, the State, or a provincial or local authority, who may be transferred to the area.

(d) There are certain concessions concerning widows and divorced women, but in Cape Town we know of few cases where a woman has been allowed to remain as a householder

* These regulations came into force in Johannesburg in August 1969.