During the last fortnight one has been able to pay informal visits to two of the “livest” spots in the District viz: the Izeli Orphanage or Convent Farm and the Mount Coke Mission Hospital. Both founded by religious denominations yet unsectarian in character, they are shining examples of what can be and is being done by people who are devoting their lives to the cause and benefit of the underdog.

The Izeli Orphanage, an institution under the Department of Social Welfare, yet run by the Mother Superior and the good Sisters of the Roman Catholic Convent of Our Lady of the Rosary is self-contained and clothes and cares for, and educates annually and continually some 150 to 200 European children between the ages of two and fourteen years.

These children live in an atmosphere of cleanliness and godliness, in comfortable healthy country surrounding and are being made and modelled into good South Africans.

The farm is wonderfully situated on the banks of the Buffalo (River) and the buildings include a beautiful Church, girl and boy hostels, junior schools from Sub A to Standard VI under competent certificated and gifted teachers, an infirmary to hold twenty beds in charge of a fully qualified nursing Sister, and stables, cowsheds and piggeries in stone and fully stocked. Among the inmates of the institution are a trained cobbler, a cement worker, and a qualified carpenter, all of whom are women and Sisters of the religious order to which the Convent belongs, and their handiwork must be seen to be believed.

Up-to-date in its farming and scholastic methods, the electrically lit buildings stand out as a medieval castle and its curtilages, but its children inmates are as happy as sandboys in hostels, clean as new pins, and the whole place a hive of industry. Native education is not neglected, for there is a project on foot to house, train and educate girls to the age of sixteen in arts and crafts, while in the meantime small children of both sexes are being taught their three Rs.

The Convent Farm should be the cynosure of all eyes and yet it is to a large extent unknown to the general public of King William’s Town.

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