

for four Probationers, who were recommended by me, and then I got two others, who paid their own expenses. These all turned out most satisfactorily, while I had them under my superintendence. This work to me was one of never-flagging interest; but circumstances arose in which I thought I was treated unjustly, and rather than cause any feeling of friction to arise through me, I sent in my resignation of the appointment, laying the whole case before those highest in authority. They expressed regret, and offered me a somewhat similar appointment in the Mofussil, as a temporary engagement until some more important post became vacant. It was Lady Superintendship of a Hospital of sixty beds, where there were at present no Nurses. This offer I gladly accepted, for I said to myself, "Wherever there is a Hospital, there is a chance of forming a Nursing School," so I at once communicated with the Medical Officer in charge, and started up country about five hundred miles, to a little station situated in a most barren, wild, out-of-the-way part. I found I could procure no quarters whatever in or near the Hospital, and also that it was impossible to live in a tent, as I had thought might be done. A lady living about two miles from the Hospital invited me to live with her as a guest, and as there was no mode of conveyance for hire, I had the good fortune to find friends who lent me their horses.

I arranged my time daily, so that I arrived at the Hospital at seven a.m., and stayed there generally until noon. Sometimes, when there were special operations, or the Doctor's visit late, I remained until one, or even two p.m. I paid my second visit in the afternoon, staying for two or three hours, as I found necessary. The Medical Officer in charge, who was the sole authority I had to be guided by, had said to me, "I know nothing as to what your duties ought to be; please arrange them yourself." With the exception of the Medical Officer, there was no other European but myself on the Hospital Staff. There were two Hospital Assistants and one Compounder, two Ward Attendants, and one Sweeper, all being natives. I had in addition an ayah given me to train as a Nurse. She did not know one word of English.

The Hospital was a one-storied building, with deep verandahs, two detached Wards in the compound, and a few sheds for isolation cases, these same sheds looking very like some tumbled-down Irish pig-styes. A very fair Operation Room had just been built, and more buildings were in course of erection. The floors were smeared freshly with cow-dung once a month.

My daily routine was to prepare for the Doctor's visit, by seeing that all the floors were swept clean and the beds made. This latter consisted of taking out the rug and sheet—which was the

only bedding under the patient—shaking them free from dust, &c., and putting them on again smoothly. The sheet was an addition made by me, as I wished the patients to have something white and clean-looking next their bodies.

I found the female patients had no Hospital clothes allowed them, and there were no pillows for any of the beds; so I mentioned this to a rich Parsee lady, who sent me a large quantity of unbleached linen, which the ayah and I converted into clothes and jackets for the women, and pillow cases for all; these latter I had filled with straw, which was easily changed when necessary.

I next saw that the Operation Room was ready. Then, with the help of the two Ward-boys, I did all the dressing of the in-patients, and when the Medical Officer arrived I went round with him, and as soon as his "visit" to the Wards was over and he had gone into his office, I hurried off to a group of out-patients who were waiting for me. These were all Surgical cases requiring dressings. These poor creatures I found had been in the habit of dressing their own wounds, and I had asked the Compounder to tell them to wait in a quiet corner of a verandah for me, with their papers properly filled in. There I had my two Ward-boys with basins, syringes, lotions, tow, and everything needed for the dressings. Here I may say that but for my training in District Nursing in the Medical and Nursing Association, at 23, Bloomsbury Square, I would have felt myself very useless indeed, and seldom having less than twenty or thirty patients, I had a brisk hour or two.

If I suspected any mistake had been made with regard to their papers—which was not seldom the case—I sent for the Senior Hospital Assistant, and asked him about it; he was a most hard-working, painstaking man. In this special work I had an opportunity of seeing many diseases strange to an English Nurse—elephantiasis, leprosy, guinea-worm, mycetoma, &c. Many women came when they heard of my advent.

The Medical Officer performed an immense number (comparatively speaking for so small a Hospital) of major operations, and as he had an antipathy to the too close contact of natives, he looked to me for assistance in these; therefore there was nothing that was likely to be needed that I had not to prepare for, even to the holding of a limb for amputation, and in one instance—in the case of a lithotomy operation on a child—I was trusted to hold the staff in position while the Surgeon enlarged the incision, and this I felt indeed an honour; to use the language of a flowery orator, it was "the proudest moment of my life."

There were many little things that I gradually got altered—the "Dhobie" to be more careful in

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