

hear more of the trouble and the weariness of it. As it is we are daily being supplied with reliable material in regard to temperature which we are gradually learning to utilize, and which we owe almost entirely to our Nurses.

(To be concluded in our next.)

### NURSING IN BRISBANE.

PERHAPS some of the readers of the *Nursing Record* would like to hear about the work out here in the Colonies. I have been engaged in private work here for some little time now, and have a fair idea of how a Nurse is treated, and have gained a good insight into the life of a Colonial Nurse altogether. Personally I have nothing to complain of in the way I have been received by both Doctors and patients, having been nicely treated by both. I fancy, though, all are not quite so fortunate. Nursing has not quite reached that high standard it has at home, and Nurses are looked upon by some still as simply Nurses, and treated accordingly. An English Nurse finds the life so different to that she has left, that many get discouraged, and wish themselves back at home. I do not blame them either; the life is very different. She has to grow accustomed to the ways of the Colonials, which everyone will admit are not so refined and gentle as at home. Then the hot climate tries her.

In Nursing especially, where one needs all one's patience and good temper—and these do not come natural to Nurses any more than to anyone else—the summer is a tax upon both. Your patient gets irritable, longs more to be up and about than he would do if it was a dark, cloudy, drizzly day, as so many of the English days are. The Nurse has to amuse him as best she can, and take care to keep her own patience and temper. The Nurse will not find the same comforts and conveniences that are considered necessities at home, and this makes her work rather more difficult, especially in cases where the patient is isolated—such as fever cases, &c. She must be prepared to lend a helping hand in many ways about the house. Servants are scarce and not good either, and the mistress often finds herself minus one at all.

I would strongly advise a Nurse coming out here to learn cooking—both sick cooking and the ordinary. It often falls to her lot to show others, if not to make herself, all her patient eats. In a hot climate an invalid's appetite is even more capricious than in a cold one, and his strength wants keeping up more. Then she needs to be more of a companion, as it may fall to her lot to

be sent to a case in the Bush, where she, if nice and cheerful, would be made a welcome inmate of the home she is sent to. Nurses coming out here must be prepared to find themselves placed in rather strange positions sometimes—I mean one where all the courage and energy of woman is required. I have nursed one or two cases—one especially—where it was a mercy I did not get brain fever through worry and anxiety. I was some miles away from a Doctor, in a country place, and the people I was thrown among were very unkind to me. I was nursing a gentleman in a hotel, and the landlady took such a dislike to me that I was glad when I was able to leave her house. My patient was a stranger to them, and did not fare much better than I—at least after I left. Another case I went to, I found I had not only my patient to look after, but the whole house and children (eight), and two or three servants. The mother died while I was nursing her son, and on her death-bed placed her boy in my care, making me promise not to leave him till he was either well or the reverse. Poor fellow, I knew at the time how it would end; but at any rate I had him for six months, and then stayed on with the others six months more. If I had been ignorant of household management things would have gone hardly with me. As it was I often felt inclined to leave my post. I often congratulated myself that I had been obliged to keep house when I was quite a girl, which gave me some insight into the work.

I have had some queer remarks made to me while engaged in Nursing here. One gentleman evidently thought that a Lady Nurse was a queer sight in Brisbane, for he said to me one day, "You are a lady born, or else one of nature's ladies; I can't quite make out which!" in a very surprised tone of voice. Another said, "I told my friends that I could talk to my Nurse just as I could talk to any of them." What a compliment for a Nurse!

A Nurse must never give herself airs here, or she will get herself disliked directly. The Colonial people will not stand anything of that sort. Some of the Doctors, too, are hard to convince that Trained Lady Nurses will do their work better than untrained ones will. So a Nurse must quietly and gradually prove that being trained and a lady is no detriment, but on the contrary will prove in the long run just the reverse. A Nurse has to work herself on more by her own unaided efforts. She has none of those Nursing Homes which are such a help to those at home (I am now speaking of Brisbane; Sydney I believe has some), nor has she the Hospitals to enter.

We can only boast of one General Hospital and one Children's Hospital, and neither can take an unlimited number of Trained Nurses, as they are

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