

The Englishman—a Calcutta paper—has the following on Nursing matters in India :—

“And now for a word on the well-known subject of Lady ROBERTS’ Homes in the Hills. Briefly, the object of this Fund are—1st, to supply Homes in the Hills for the Lady Nurses employed by Government in the Soldiers’ Hospitals, where they may rest and recruit when worn out by their trying work in the plains, thus avoiding having to take leave to England. The Secretary of State recognized these Homes as an ‘important part’ of the Nursing scheme, ‘and indispensable to its practical working;’ and only consented to Nurses being supplied to India on the understanding that these Homes, as ‘health resorts,’ should be provided by private subscription, which condition Lady ROBERTS undertook to carry out; 2nd, to supply, in connection with these Homes, Officers’ Hospitals and Convalescent Homes, with Nursing Sisters in attendance (whose salaries, passages, &c., are paid by Lady ROBERTS’ Fund); and 3rd, to supply Lady Nurses to certain stations in the plains to which Government Nursing Sisters have not as yet been appointed.

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“A House to form a Nurses’ Home, and an Officers’ Hospital on a large scale was purchased and furnished, and with three Lady Nurses in attendance has been worked successfully for four years at Murree. (2) A smaller Home and Officers’ Hospital was built and furnished at Kasauli, and has been working, under the same conditions, for the last three years.”

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A HOME for Lady Nurses and an Officers’ Hospital has been built and furnished at Wellington, in the Madras Presidency, and has been working for three years. A Lady Nurses’ Home was built and furnished at Quetta, and a Superintendent and two Nurses supplied to the Soldiers’ Hospital there.

Government Nursing Sisters have now been extended to Quetta, and the Home has been taken over by Government.

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In addition to the above, Lady Nurses were supplied to the Military Hospitals at Meerut, Mian Mir, Lucknow, and Bareilly, until Government took over the work at these places. A Home has been promised in the Bombay Presidency, and money has been set aside to build or buy one during the present year.

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LADY ROBERTS is now most anxious to invest a sufficiently large sum of money to adequately maintain these Homes and Officers’ Hospitals when she leaves India. She has already invested Rs. 145,000, but Rs. 235,000 are necessary to enable her to leave the work independent. To complete the work, Lady ROBERTS would like to establish a Home and Officers’ Hospital at Naini Tal or Ranikhet, should sufficient subscriptions come in.

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BUT what now is a most urgent necessity in our Indian Empire, is good Nursing for European civilians—and this great want will have to be satisfied—the sooner the Secretary of State for India, whoever he may be in the future, realizes this fact, the better for all concerned. The misery and neglect of our sick countrymen and women has led to many a fatal result.

S. G.

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