

appears to modify more or less their typical characters.

Cholera nowadays is mercifully a comparatively rare visitant. Still, few years pass without an outbreak in some part of India. There has generally been considerable opposition from the doctors to the members of the Nursing Service being employed among cholera cases. I grant that with such limited numbers they cannot do very much; for the moment cholera appears in any garrison the troops are at once separated and sent out into camp, hence the cholera cases become scattered in various camps pitched on purpose for them. Also, during an unhealthy season the Nursing Sisters are probably fully occupied by the nursing of the ordinary cases, which are sure to be numerous, and consequently they cannot be spared at all. It is only on one or two occasions that permission has been obtained, and that Nursing Sisters have been given charge of the nursing of cholera wards.

Besides the different kinds of work I have already described there is one possibility which I feel sure nearly every Nurse has more or less in her mind when she takes service in the Army. I refer to employment on active service. But how few ever get a chance of this!

#### ACTIVE SERVICE.

Since we first came out in 1888 there have been three frontier expeditions in connection with which Nursing Sisters were employed. The first was an expedition to the Black Mountain in the Hazara District in October, 1888. Five Nursing Sisters were sent, and were divided between Oghi and Derband, the two advanced base camps, each containing a Field Hospital. For this service they received the Indian frontier medal with the Hazara clasp.

In 1892 there was another punitive expedition sent against the same tribes, and two Sisters were sent again to Derband on the Indus. This time, however, there were no wounded, for there was no fighting at all, but, instead, there was a considerable amount of sickness among the men—both cholera and enteric fever.

In 1895 there was the relief expedition to Chitral, which was by far the most important military undertaking of the three. On this occasion Nursing Sisters were only employed at the Base Hospital, which was established first at Peshawar, and as the hot weather increased it was transferred to Chirat, a small hill station to which the inhabitants of Peshawar are accustomed to emigrate every summer. Two extra Sisters were sent up to reinforce the usual Peshawar staff, so there were six of them in charge of the nursing, and hard work they had,

especially during the last month or two, for at the end of the campaign sick and wounded, both officers and men, arrived in large batches generally much exhausted and travel worn, and when they were distributed among the various Hospital huts and tents, it required considerable organisation and management to attend on them all.

Nevertheless, it was a great disappointment felt through the whole service that no Nurses were sent further afield. I do not for a moment propose that Nurses should be allowed to accompany troops pushing forward through a difficult country like Chitral—that would be impossible and is out of the question. But I do think that after the first advance has been made, when the line of communications is thoroughly established, that Nurses might be sent to some of the fixed camps on the road, where large numbers of sick and wounded become congregated, and where they all had to pass through on their weary way to the rear, a journey involving many days, and even weeks, of marching.

The majority of cases must, of course, be passed on rapidly from camp to camp, back into India. But there were many, especially enteric fever patients, who could not be moved, or who never survived to reach their journey's end; and if these could have been selected, and kept back for a few weeks in one or other of the larger standing camps, a regular system of nursing might have been organised there, and their lives might have been saved.

The employment of Nursing Sisters at one or two camps on the line of communications would not involve any serious danger to themselves, or much trouble or expense to the authorities. They could easily ride all marches that are practicable for transport and baggage, and the amount of extra transport required for them should be very small. Their baggage would be strictly limited to a certain defined quantity, and a very little experience of camp life suffices to teach one what to take and how to manage.

*(To be continued.)*

#### Nursing Scholarships.

THE East Suffolk County Council having offered free scholarships to enable persons to receive instruction in Nursing at a Training Institution, candidates are requested to forward their names and all particulars to Miss Gertrude Barnardiston, The Ryes, Sudbury, who will give any information required. Candidates must be between 25 and 40 years of age, and residents in the administrative county of East Suffolk, and after training will be employed by the Suffolk Nursing Association.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)