

for these people, so far removed from public sympathy and interest, that we now plead. The simple thing we ask is that in the appointment of Attendants for the imbeciles who are sick as well as weak in mind these Attendants should have had a training in the Nursing of sickness as well as in the management of insanity; and that these unfortunates should thus be placed at least on a level with what is now considered right in regard to sick paupers who are not insane. This seems a small thing to ask, and we feel confident that in the end it will be done."

Nursing in Pernambuco.

WITH the ever increasing Nursing competition at home we see but one hopeful sign for trained Nurses, and that is, that having established by their useful work an ever increasing demand for efficient care for the sick abroad, Nurses who have the pluck, education, and a true love of their profession, can still find work in foreign lands, not, mind you, in our own great self-governing Colonies, where progress is much more rapid than at home, and where strides in Nursing education are being taken, which will soon leave the mother country in the rear, but in those far away outlying lands, under the governing rule of effete European nations, in Africa, South America, and in the far East, and where we find that, as at home, their power of progress is limited. This apropos of letters from British Nursing pioneers in Central Asia and South America. At Pernambuco (under Portuguese rule) a British Nursing Institute is to be found, but its lines are limited, as the services of the two Nurses are reserved for English subscribers suffering from yellow fever. But as such cases are very rare, these two Nurses are not allowed to undertake other work, as "somebody might have yellow fever and they must be ready to nurse such cases." We hear, therefore, that there is an opening for a few thoroughly trained Nurses with Midwifery experience in Pernambuco; as many of the richest Brazilians have English wives, but it is essential that such Nurses should have a fair knowledge of French and Portuguese, and must be prepared to leave insular prejudices at home.

The remuneration of the Institution Nurses is a house and £150 between the two for board, with £100 each for salary; they charge 10s. a day to subscribers, and 15s. a day to non-subscribers. The necessaries of life are expensive, but clothes can be procured from England, the voyage from Southampton only taking a fortnight. There are no Brazilian Nurses of any kind in Pernambuco, and many of the doctors speak English.

The Hospital is evidently worked on the most primitive lines: the poor patients all being locked in the wards at night, with no one to give even a drink of water, and *on dit* that a coffin is kept under each bed, so the objection on the part of the sick to go into Hospital can be readily understood.

The climate is by no means perfect, but is not extremely hot, the thermometer varying from 70° to 94°, so that it is fairly equitable. The rains are very heavy, although our correspondent tells of a gentleman "who constantly sits down to dinner in a very low-necked, short-sleeved vest, and a pair of trousers, and swears because he cannot decently relieve himself of any further garments." Of course, Nurses who cannot stand heat should not attempt to emigrate to tropical climates.

But we gather that in Pernambuco, as at home, there is much preventable sickness and suffering, and where such is the case, if we doubt not, there will soon be found the trained and helpful British Nurse.

The Royal Infirmary, Manchester.

THE Report of the Grand Committee of the Royal Infirmary, Manchester, in which it is suggested to rebuild a new Hospital on the original site in the centre of the city, has already aroused protests against any encroachment on the vacant space by which the fine old Infirmary is surrounded. There is wisdom in such argument, but, at the same time, the present position of the Infirmary is admirably adapted for its purpose, being in the very heart of the city, with its teeming working population, and to remove it to any distance would mean great additional suffering to many poor persons. If more space is required round the Infirmary when it is rebuilt and extended, to meet the requirements of the sick poor, let the surrounding street buildings be demolished, and the centre of the town opened out.

From what we see of the suggested plans, however, we should imagine that the surrounding open space will be sufficient when the new Hospital is built. It is computed that the new buildings will cover only 696 square yards more than the present buildings, and that this encroachment amounts to only 5 per cent. of the space at present uncovered by buildings within the Infirmary railings.

It is an open secret that great pressure is being brought by certain members of the staff to have the new Infirmary built near to Owens College, but we maintain that the convenience of the sick poor must be the paramount consideration in deciding this momentous question.

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