

new foundations, or even in making a garden—malaria, attacking those persons whose houses are adjacent, is certain to follow. It is much to be hoped, therefore, that temporary hospitals, of which the ground floor is several feet above the surface level, may be speedily erected, or that a plan, which we believe would be the most efficacious possible, may be adopted of equipping a hospital ship, which could be isolated in the harbour for the reception of plague patients.

The advantages of this plan would be—

- (1) Segregation could be effectually carried out.
- (2) The patients would be placed in the best possible conditions for recovery, as it is a matter of common knowledge that, in unhealthy climates, sailors, and those who sleep on board ship, are rarely attacked by fever.
- (3) The nurses would have more fresh air than would be possible for them to obtain in any other way, besides the great advantage of nursing in a hospital completely and conveniently furnished, and one in which the all-important point of absolute cleanliness could be thoroughly carried out.

We are informed that the Arthur Road Hospital is under the care of four All Saints' Sisters—three on day duty and one on night duty—and that, during the first twenty-four hours after the hospital was opened, eleven patients died during the night, so that it will be readily understood that more nursing help is imperatively needed to save life.

Our readers are aware that the Parsee community dispose of their dead by placing them in what are known as "Towers of Silence." The bodies are placed upon shelves in these towers, which are open at the top, and the vultures, which are always hovering above, leave only a skeleton within less than an hour of a body being placed within a tower. It is an interesting fact that the vultures are now being attacked by the plague.

Professor Haffkine, the eminent bacteriologist, who is in Bombay making inquiries into the cause of the plague, is himself suffering from a mild attack of the disease.

The *Bombay Gazette* states that "Dr. Haffkine's anti-toxin has now reached a stage when it can be largely used in those plague cases in which the patient is not moribund. The results from the use of the serum have been so successful that the municipality are opening a station in the town for free inoculation."

A sub-committee of the International Sanitary Conference, held at Vienna, has reported against the efficacy of serum as a prophylactic.

Annotations.

THE MACCLESFIELD INFIRMARY.

WE have before had occasion to comment upon the mismanagement and the incompetent administration of the affairs of this institution, and a recent account of its annual meeting, and of the new rules then passed, confirms us in the opinion that our remarks were well founded. We draw the attention of our readers to the following rules:—

"The senior house surgeon shall be fellow, member, or licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons, and a licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, or of the Society of Apothecaries, or a graduate of medicine of any university of Great Britain or Ireland. He shall be the responsible head of the institution, and shall take care that the nurses properly discharge their duties in their wards, and he shall report weekly to the house committee the general state of the institution."

So that a young man, whose qualifications need only be that he is a licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons and of the Society of Apothecaries, is to hold in addition to the office of house surgeon, for which, presumably, he is competent, the offices also of superintendent of nurses and general superintendent of the institution, for which positions his previous experience has presumably afforded him no training whatsoever.

In connection with the superintendence of the nurses, it is interesting to observe the rules laid down for them by the committee (are they prompted by the house surgeon, we wonder, as being his comprehensive estimate of nursing duties?).

"The nurses shall behave with tenderness to the patients, and shall administer the medicine according to directions from the medical officers. They shall enforce strict cleanliness in the wards, beds, and persons of the patients, and in case of any irregularity or bad language on the part of the patients, they shall immediately report it to the matron."

As the probationers are to be certificated after one year's work in the wards under the control of a young medical man, here indeed is to be found suitable environment for evolving—we cannot say training—the Nurse *à la Mode*, whose services are to be offered to the unfortunate poor middle classes, when the beloved "bread winner" or devoted "house mother" is sick unto death, as lately suggested in the *Nineteenth Century*.

The duties assigned to the matron at the Macclesfield Infirmary are significant.

"The matron shall have under her care all the household goods and the entire management of the housekeeping department. She shall see that the patients have their meals at the appointed times, and shall take care that each patient has the diet prescribed by the doctor. She shall also have the power of

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