

tholomew's, and who is now a Governor and Almoner of the Hospital.

Miss Margaret Catherine Steel was also trained and certificated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where she worked from 1892 to 1897.

Miss Jane E. Wheatley is a member of the Nurses' Co-operation, 8, New Cavendish Street, and was trained and certificated at St. George's Hospital from 1888 to 1893, from which date she has been engaged in private nursing. Miss Wheatley is a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association and a Registered Nurse.

Miss Marion Hale was trained and certificated at the West London Hospital from 1893 to 1896. Miss Hale is a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association and a Registered Nurse.

Miss Lilly M. Robinson was trained and certificated at the Royal Isle of Wight Infirmary, Ryde, from 1893 to 1896, and she has lately been engaged in private nursing in London.

In the current issue of the *Times of India* (27th February) much editorial space is devoted to the subject of nursing the plague, and it remarks: "We should have been glad if the contingent of medical men from England had been larger than it is, and if it had been accompanied by a plentiful staff of nurses. The home medical papers have from the first urged this as a matter of pressing necessity, and it is believed that if the India Office would facilitate their despatch to Bombay there would be no lack of volunteers. The danger lest England, in her generous help to the famine-stricken districts, should forget the sufferings and the dangers attendant upon the plague epidemic, is great, and it has already arrested the attention of more than one commentator." It is satisfactory that before this paragraph reached England the first contingent of nurses had left for Bombay.

In an article headed "Hospitals and Nursing," the editor remarks: "Those who have looked very closely into the internal economy of the Bombay native hospitals lately have noticed much to applaud in the zeal of the men in medical charge, and the devotion of the few sisters and nurses for whom provision is made. Here there is everything that could be desired except adequacy in numbers, for overwork is a condition of hospital service even in normal times, and in these times, when sisters and nurses have been drafted from the hospitals for plague service, the burden of service for those who remain is almost crushing."

"We have too much to think about now for any inquiry even on this important subject, but when the present strain is past it would be well if Government were to get placed upon record the opinion of some of their more experienced officers upon the requirements of the Bombay hospitals. It would then be seen, we believe, that the munificence of our wealthy men has endowed the city with institutions which, splendid though some of them are, fall far short of what a hospital should be if it is to be regarded as a place for the relief of suffering and for the recovery of the sick. Are there no ways of impressing our men of wealth and benevolence that other services than those of the builder and the contractor must be called in before even the finest building in a city can be entitled to be called a hospital?"

"It is no use placing an impossible ideal before them, but nevertheless we commend to the notice of some of our wealthy citizens the fact mentioned by Dr. Cantlie in the lecture which we quoted on Saturday that in order to do full justice to a plague patient there should, at the most critical stage in the treatment, be one nurse to two patients. That is, it may be recognised, an impossible ideal, but it is useful as showing what an important part nursing plays in the economy of a hospital, and how poor a gift, after all, the most magnificent hospital building must be if no provision is made for adequate nursing and attendance, and the patients are left to the tender mercies of ward boys who run away when the back of the medical officer is turned."

"We have had in Bombay one awful example of what an unnursed hospital means, but we have not to go to Arthur Road for object lessons in the need for a properly organised and properly paid staff of nurses. The need proclaims itself in every one of the native hospitals in Bombay. A more generous support of the Dufferin Fund would go far to mend matters, but more could be done by an immediate and direct recognition by our wealthy citizens of the incompleteness of the hospital charities of this city, and the need of supplementing lavish gifts in the shape of buildings by a correspondingly liberal provision of means for nursing. All the nursing strength that is at present available in Bombay is being drawn upon, and is being severely worked. It may be supplemented promptly by drawing upon England, where there are plenty of nurses ready to come out, and to meet the present want it is understood that the Secretary of State is ready to send them."

"What is wanted, however, is a fund to pay, house, and pension them, and this cannot be provided out of the public revenues. Is there no one who is ready to give a new and most necessary direction to Bombay charity by recognising that there is an inside as well as an outside to a hospital, and that it is *there* that the real work is done, that suffering is relieved, and life is saved? The Bombay Shettia who is the first to put down his lakh for the institution of a permanent nursing fund may be sure that his name will not be forgotten, and that the blessing of the poor will rest upon him."

The Black Plague is believed by the medical authorities to be identical with the Black Death which raged throughout the world in the 14th century. The Black Death ravaged England in 1348-49, 1361-62 and 1369. It is an aggravated form of the Oriental Bubonic Plague, with, however, special symptoms of its own. The first English victims succumbed in Dorsetshire, in August, 1348; and the "Death" reached London in the winter of that year. The mortality in London was 100,000, and Norwich mourned 60,000 deaths. Careful investigators calculate that the victims of this one visitation must have amounted to one-third, if not one-half of the total population of England, which is estimated to have then been from three to four millions. Ireland and Scotland also suffered terribly.

The Bombay correspondent of the *Daily Mail* states that it is reported that two cases of Black Plague have occurred in that city.

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