

In reply to a number of communications which we have received on the subject, we must express our great regret that we have, until now, been unable to obtain and publish some account of Mrs. Chant's journey to Crete. Our representative has called upon that lady three times, but has found her too busily engaged to be able to accord an interview. But we hope soon to be able to gain and give what would doubtless be most interesting information to our readers.

### Nursing the Plague.

MISS ROBINSON, who is in charge of the Wari-Bunder Plague Hospital, Bombay, writes to say that she would welcome any gifts of money to buy necessaries, clothing, &c., for her patients after their recovery. "They are very poor, and need help badly." All clothing is burnt when they enter the hospital. A good stock of clothing for ward use is also necessary owing to the nature of the disease. There are 24 patients in the hospital, and patients also in the observation wards. Miss Robinson is very anxious to obtain comfortable beds for her patients. These may be purchased in Bombay at a cost of 3s. 6d. each.

The money received by the Editor for comforts for the plague-stricken has already been sent out to Bombay, and there are consequently no funds in hand to place at Miss Robinson's disposal. Further contributions would, therefore, be welcomed and acknowledged.

The sympathy of the nation with the Greek wounded has been so keen, and the response to the appeal on their behalf so generous, that our interest in the plague-stricken has become a little eclipsed. But the interest and the sympathy remain, and we feel sure that the need has only to be put before our readers to elicit a response.

A glimpse of life in the Wari-Bunder Hospital in Miss Robinson's own words will, we think, be appreciated by the readers of the RECORD. She writes:—

"After inoculation I came on duty here the following day. My temperature only rose to 99°, and I feel no after-effects at all, so I am fortunate. I am writing after dinner in the verandah. There is a slight breeze, though it is very hot indeed in the day, but really I have been so busy that I have not had any time to think. I am quite happy. We have no luxuries, but plain temporary surroundings.

My late night nurse left yesterday, a volunteer, a Zenana Missionary lady. The new one is a volunteer also, and untrained. My assistant, Nurse De Molleh, a probationer from the Jamsetji Hospital, is a good nurse and a loyal worker, but she leaves me soon to manage the wards with ayahs and Sepoys. So much depends on the nursing. We have several pneumonias—some very acute cases. It is real nursing.

In England we should have had more nurses long ago. Some of the patients are now convalescing, but it is such a long time before one sees any real effects after danger is over. It is so difficult to make these people understand the necessity of keeping quiet and staying in bed. Directly they feel a little better they want to sit up."

### Superintendents' Convention, Baltimore, February, 1897.

#### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

IN announcing the opening of the Fourth Annual Convention of this Society, it becomes my pleasant privilege to extend to you a cordial welcome, not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the profession and city which I represent. We all have the hope that your short stay here may be one of pleasure as well as profit.

In trying to decide what should be the nature of the few words which I shall add to my greeting to-day, I found myself once again, as I have been many times before, deeply impressed with the magnitude of the interests which we, as a Society of Training School Superintendents, represent. In inaugurating the work of another year, I can think of no better stimulus to the enthusiasm which should inspire our efforts, than to ask you to once more briefly consider with me the relation of our profession to the community at large, the scope of our work, and some of its manifold responsibilities.

To over-estimate the greatness of the task, which we are striving, however imperfectly, to fulfil, would be almost impossible. The world has no interest dearer to it than the care of its sick, its suffering, and its helpless; nor, even though the fact may seem to be unrecognised, has it any interest more important than the physical and moral improvement of its people. If our usefulness were limited to the former alone, one could hardly complain of want of scope, but add the duties of the teacher and the reformer, and you place the profession of nursing at once where bounds can hardly be set to its possibilities. Like the physician, the nurse touches the social fabric at every point. The reformations which she has brought about in hospitals and the changes which she has wrought in their moral atmosphere can be carried into every other condition of life where such work is needed. As workers, nurses have a peculiar strength, because, no matter what may be our small differences of opinion or of method, as to our main purpose, there is no division in our ranks. We are of no school, race, creed, nor class, and we recognise no such distinctions. We are not individuals, or small communities, each working for its own self-aggrandisement, but we aim to be one great Christian community, obeying the first law of the kingdom of heaven, trying to do all the good we can, in all the ways we are able, to as many people as we can reach; striving to our utmost to use our talents, not only in actually ministering to the sick, but in working for the general uplifting of human strength and human character. Do I seem to be unduly magnifying the proportions of our work? Is this carrying it into channels where it does not belong and investing it with powers it should not possess? Let us look, for a moment, at the value of the education of

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