

that her practical experience is of the utmost value. Already four emergency hospitals are in working order, No. 1 being a block of the Public Hospital in Tant Lane, where twenty-six patients are most comfortably housed in two wards. Near by is hospital No. 4, where fourteen beds for male patients have been arranged in the St. Michael's Mission Hall, Milton Street. The Wesleyan Schools are utilized as hospital No. 3, and No. 2 is situated at the other end of the town, in the Salvation Army barracks and in an adjoining private house, which together contain eighty beds, and where I found Miss Plowman very busy over domestic matters, the basis of all good nursing. I found every hospital beautifully clean and orderly and gaily decorated with a wealth of lovely autumn flowers. The majority of beds provided are of the most approved pattern, with spring mattress and hair palliasses complete; the quilts pure white or red and white, of light texture, and the bed linen soft and fine. In every ward the nurses were bright and busy, and I was glad to learn that an ample supply of nurses was provided for each hospital, the same number being on night duty as are at work during the day. How wise this arrangement is will be acknowledged by those who understand the value of skilled nursing in the treatment of enteric fever—especially as I was informed that the distinctive feature of the present epidemic was usually excessive delirium, accompanied, in many instances, with what one would describe as the "brain cry" of meningitis. The means for effectually disinfecting the soiled linen were in process of arrangement, three tubs in a row being arranged under shelter, to contain strong carbolic lotion—or sokol—through which each piece of linen was to pass before being sent to the laundry in mackintosh bags.

Miss Plowman is resident at Hospital No. 2; but all other members of the nursing staff board and live out, so that they come quite fresh to their work each day. The nursing staff now employed in the hospitals and districts numbers already seventy-nine. Many of the nurses are at present guests in the houses of residents in Maidstone; but admirable arrangements have been made, under the personal supervision of Mr. Urmston, a member of the Town Council, for housing the large majority of the nursing staff in the Grammar School, and the Howard de Walden Institute. I had the pleasure of inspecting the arrangements at the former house with Mr. Urmston, whose kindly thought for the comfort of the nurses was remarkable. Here, a most comfortable cubicle was furnished for each nurse, and the domestic arrangements were in the hands of a lady who has held the position of hospital matron in the past.

At the Howard de Walden Institute, the large concert and class-rooms—airy, bright rooms—were arranged to the best possible advantage, and here I found everyone very busy in packing and classifying shoals of parcels which were constantly arriving, containing sheets, shirts, flannels, garments and stores of every description, for the use of the patients.

In fact, an admirable spirit reigned throughout. No panic, no fuss, every man and woman doing the duty to which they were appointed, with admirable promptitude and efficiency; and if there can be a silver lining to such a cloud as that which hangs over the picturesque county town of lovely Kent, it is the facility with which skilled and efficient workers can at once be procured,

and deputed to every department of the organization for relief, and the united effort for the public welfare which prompts each individual in the particular sphere in which their duty lies.

MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY FROM THE QUEEN.

The Mayor of Maidstone has received the following telegram from the Queen's Private Secretary:—"The Queen is greatly distressed at the serious accounts of the typhoid fever in Maidstone, and wishes to express her sincere sympathy with the sufferers and bereaved. Her Majesty hopes you will be able to report that those attacked are doing well." The following reply was sent:—"The Mayor of Maidstone most respectfully and gratefully acknowledges her Majesty's generous message of sympathy, which shall be communicated to the sufferers and bereaved, and the other inhabitants of the borough. The sick are doing well under the care of the doctors and nurses." Her Majesty's kindly message was posted on the door of the Town Hall, where it has been read by thousands of townspeople.

E. G. F.

Nurses and Nursing in India.

WE quote from the *Indian Medical Record* the following editorial remarks on the above subject:—

"India, both in its large cities and its smaller mofussil stations, offers a very wide and fairly remunerative field for the employment of women in the profession of nursing. The demand for nurses is large, and must of necessity increase as the knowledge and sway of Western medicine is spread over this Empire. The material for the supply of this demand is in no way deficient, either in quantity or in the all-important requirement of thorough and efficient training. Hitherto the training of nurses has been limited to the numerical needs of four large city hospitals, but in recent years the rapid colonization of the country by Europeans has created an urgent demand for qualified and trained nurses. This has been met by the opening of our hospitals to numerous candidates for nursing work, and thus in a few years a somewhat formidable army of nurses has been turned out ready for work.

"A twelve-months attendance and course of training is at present considered adequate for each candidate, and she receives a certificate of competency at the end of this term and starts life as a qualified nurse. The ordinary fee paid to such women is five rupees a day, and were a nurse thus paid, regularly employed for at least twenty days in each month, she would be earning a fairly decent livelihood. Our large cities are now becoming glutted with nurses, and there is complaint that many are out of work for long intervals and find it difficult to live.

"In this connection we would invite very pointed attention to the fact that as qualified European and

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