

hours are long for this climate, but nurses always do have long hours; and it is a great alleviation that they have no scrubbing, nothing but real nursing.

These special nurses receive Rs. 175 a month, and, living six together, can save Rs. 130. Very good pay for a nurse.

There is not very much nursing that can be done for a plague patient; the bubo has to be lanced and dressed, the temperature taken, and food given, that is about all, and one would think that native women might be taught to do all that is needed, instead of our having to bring nurses out from England. But it seems the patient's own wife or mother is not to be trusted to give the food. She eats the custard and drinks the milk herself, and tells the doctor the patient has had it. There are not enough nurses to do night work, so when the nurse goes round at 7 a.m. to take the temperatures, she finds perhaps thirty lying dead, with their blankets over their faces. They die mostly between 2 and 4 a.m., of collapse.

The house-to-house inspection is now being done partly by natives. We were on our tennis court eight days ago, and saw the servants' quarters of the next bungalow being inspected by one of these parties. Most of the doors stood open; the inspector walked down the row, glancing into each room, but not going inside any one, nor looking behind the door. When he came to a closed room, with a teething baby inside, showing off its lungs, he knocked politely, asked, "Is anyone sick here?" was answered "No," and went away quite happy. That is native inspection, after the frightful experience of the last year, both in Bombay and Poona. And then our friends in England say we ought never to have employed English soldiers at all, but should have had all the search work done by natives. This arrangement would have thinned the population much more effectually, but that was not the object of our paternal government.

The mother of our neighbour's cook was ill with plague. She heard the search party was coming so she got up and went to sit in the road, to show them how well she was. They came and told her to stand up, that they might see her; she did so, and fell back dead.

Only this morning I had a letter from a friend at the other side of Poona, who got her first baby just a month ago. She writes: "I had a great fright yesterday morning. Our cook, washerman, groom, and one trolleyman were all taken off to the Plague Hospital, and when I discovered two lumps on baby's legs, I felt convinced she had plague, and sent for the doctor at once. He reassured me about baby, but I was very much upset. This morning we heard that the groom and one of the washerman's children had died."

The Segregation Rules enclosed are from our local paper.

Poona.

Yours sincerely,

K. T.

NURSING IN AMERICA.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—As you are always so just to both sides of a question in the NURSING RECORD, I shall be obliged if you will be kind enough to publish an account of our last Meeting, as sent to the press by our Corresponding Secretary, which gives our reasons for not affiliating with the National Association of Associated Alumnae of the United States and Canada. "The regular monthly meeting of the Alumnae Association of the N. Y. C. T. S. was held as usual at

the New York Academy of Medicine, 17, West 43rd Street, on October 12th, at 3 p.m. After the usual routine of business, the president drew the attention of the members present to the fact that there were two matters of importance before them for deliberation and decision, viz., as to whether the Alumnae Association should enter the Associated Alumnae of U. S. and Canada (more familiarly known as the 'Superintendents' National Association'), and as to what means should be taken to replenish the treasury of the Alumnae Association, a fair having been suggested at the previous meeting. At the suggestion of the president precedence was given to the subject of the National Association. By request the corresponding secretary read the constitution and bye-laws of the association in question, that those present might be better acquainted with the subject, and able to join more intelligently in the discussion to follow, the result of which was an almost unanimous vote against the alumnae being represented, for the following reasons:—

1. That there is no actual or material benefit to be derived from an alliance with the National Association, its object being merely "educational and ethical."

2. The expenses entailed by the allotted number of delegates to be sent from the alumnae (their travelling expenses, hotel bills, etc.), would be too great a tax on the necessarily limited income of the alumnae, as the National Association has no permanent headquarters, and each year the place of meeting is changed, and may at any time be a great distance from New York, perhaps at Chicago or San Francisco; each alumnae being expected, evidently, to defray all expenses of its delegates, as no provision of the kind is made in their constitution and bye-laws.

3. Combined with the above necessary expenses come the yearly dues, which we read are 'subject to change,' and which are not likely to be reduced.

4. In drafting the constitution and bye-laws at Manhattan Beach in 1896 (which were adopted as drafted with but few changes in Baltimore, 1897), there were delegates present who helped to form the rules to govern an association they could not enter, and which delegates were dropped when the association was organized. Therefore the association was formed on lines not conducive to fair play.

5. That the National Association is not the culmination of the united impulse of the *graduates at large*, they never having been consulted in its formation.

The subject was discussed fairly and impartially, the predominant feeling being plainly evinced, that as free graduates and women of broad minds and average intelligence, the members present strenuously objected to joining any association of the kind, where rules were formulated for them, presumably on the ground that the graduates were unable, or incapable, of forming them for themselves."

AN AMERICAN GRADUATE.

[We cannot understand the hesitation upon the part of any American Alumnae Association to join the National Organization of Nurses, which is conceived in the most liberal spirit, and on the most representative lines, each School Society having the power to select and depute its own delegate to the Governing Body. The School Societies of America must remember that "Union is strength." If there are details to which they can justly take exception in the Constitution of the young National Society of Nurses, let them take their part in building up a strong Constitution, as their fathers did of old, when "making the Constitution" of their great Republic.—ED.]

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