

duty and died of it. Their services were an absolute necessity; they never murmured and toiled on day and night. They stood to their guns with as much pluck as a British soldier does to his in the field, and yet there are no medals, V.C.'s, or other honours in view. Several medical men also sacrificed their lives. Compare the mortality of nurses and doctors on plague duty with those in the present North-West war." We have for some years advocated the institution of a medal for civil, as well as military nurses, who have rendered exceptional services.

PRACTICAL DETAILS.

We have recently had the pleasure of inspecting two plague charts. In one case the patient died, and in the other recovered. The pulse and respiration, as well as the temperature are charted, the temperature being in black, the pulse red, and the respiration blue. In each case the temperature went up to, or over, 106° Fahr. We understand that in favourable cases the plague temperature drops slightly on the third day, and then goes up again upon the suppuration of the bubo, dropping slightly on the sixth day. The bubo, if it suppurates, is generally opened on the ninth day of the disease. There are a variety of opinions as to the time that infection continues. Some doctors hold that infection lasts until about the twenty-first day of the disease, while others consider that there is very little infection after suppuration sets in, as the pus streptococci overcome the plague bacilli.

The nursing staffs in the plague hospitals usually begin work at 7 a.m. and work until 12 midday, and again from 2.30 until 4.30, 6, or 7.30 p.m. They take the temperatures, pulses, and respirations, and do the dressings, and generally supervise and direct their native assistants. The dressings used are perhaps primitive to our English ideas, but they answer the purpose admirably. They usually consist of rag, which is torn up into sizes suitable for dressings and plugs; this is then soaked for twelve hours in perchloride of mercury—1 in 1000—before use. Outside this dressing ordinary brown wool is used, and the wounds, we are told, do marvellously well under this treatment.

When they are able to leave their responsible duties for a while—and in India a certain amount of exercise seems to be a necessity in order to keep in health—the sisters find plenty of recreation in bicycling, boating, and Badminton, while they receive much hospitality from the residents. In a combined round of duty and pleasure we have no doubt that their lives are full and happy. The people who need most sympathy are their relations who remain at home and are necessarily anxious as to the welfare of those who are exposed to the possibility of contracting the dread disease.

DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEA
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 A Guarantee of Purity.

Nursing Politics.

"TOO CLEVER BY HALF."

IT is our painful duty, once more, to expose the manner in which the *Hospital* newspaper attempts to deceive and mislead the nursing profession on most essential facts. A fortnight ago, we reprinted a letter which appeared in the *Lancet* from Mr. G. B. Hudson, M.P., extolling the management of the Royal British Nurses' Association—which, as all our readers know, is now in the hands of a small clique of Middlesex Hospital medical men and nurses, acting under the dictation of Mr. Fardon, the resident medical officer, and of Miss Thorold, the matron. In commenting upon this letter—with a clear appreciation of its source—we hinted that the writer was a connection of Mr. Charles L. Hudson, described in the *Medical Directory* as Assistant Surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital. We regret to learn that the latter gentleman died last year. But the *Hospital* deliberately attempts to deceive nurses as to the source of the inspiration of Mr. G. B. Hudson, M.P., in the following sentences, which for purposes of more easy refutation, we extract from the paragraph to which we refer, placing them in parallel columns with indisputable facts.

The *Hospital*.

Feb. 19, 1898, p. 185.

"our excuse for mentioning a suggestion in the NURSING RECORD which, if accepted as true, or if imagined to be even founded on fact, might lead to erroneous conclusions."

"Of course everyone will see the sneer and the suggestion. The Middlesex Hospital (containing as it does Mr. Fardon) is like a red rag to the editor of the NURSING RECORD, and great, no doubt, was her joy when she thought she had traced this letter to the Middlesex."

"Mr. C. E. L. B. Hudson, who was well known in medical circles, died nearly a year ago, and therefore can hardly be accused of prompting Mr. Hudson, M.P., who, it should also be said, is no relative."

FACTS.

1. Mr. G. B. Hudson, M.P., is a member of the Committee of Management of the Middlesex Hospital.

2. In a private letter addressed to us by Mr. G. B. Hudson, M.P., on the subject, he says, concerning the late Mr. C. Leopold Hudson, "I certainly mourn his loss as a kinsman and friend."

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