

appears, and to bring it into well merited contempt. Such a position has never been, can never be, adopted by nurses. We are glad to believe that whatever may be their failings and shortcomings, they have always been ready to respond to the call for their services in time of danger, and, it will be an ill day when they are considered only suitable to be kept in safety in the background when danger threatens, and to be useful only in fair weather. As a British woman and a British nurse we repudiate that position, and in doing so we know we are voicing an opinion inspired by all that is most worthy in the nursing profession. We, further, feel sure that women missionaries will also claim their right to go wherever the male missionary finds his way. Whether wives and daughters should be permitted to accompany their husbands and fathers is an entirely different question. We think not. In our opinion, missionaries, both men and women, whose work lies in unhealthy or unsettled countries are best unmarried; they can so give themselves to the work before them without distraction. Officers in the army on active service, do not take their families about with them, and the same should hold good with missionaries called to dangerous posts; but women who are free to attend to the duties which they take up, should, in our opinion, be permitted to go as missionaries on exactly the same terms as men.

THE SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENTS.

SOME strong statements were last week made at the meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Stockport Union, when the question of accommodation for children suffering from infectious diseases was discussed. During the past week a deputation had waited on the Local Government Board, asking its sanction to a resolution of the Guardians, to purchase for the object named, at a cost of £900, six cottages adjacent to the Workhouse at Shaw Heath. This, the Local Government Board declined to grant, and suggested that accommodation should be provided on the land already purchased at Stepping Hill by the Guardians as the site of a new workhouse. Mr. John Bateman charged "the authorities in London," presumably the Local Government Board, "with assisting, in the words of Mr. Gordon Smith, architect to the Local Government Board, in the murder of children in the workhouse, while the representatives of the ratepayers were fighting out their differences as to the best place to provide increased workhouse accommodation."

Mr. J. R. Clarke stated that in his opinion they were bound to do something at once. If the children could have been properly isolated at the outset, they might have saved three fourths of the number who had died in the past few weeks from measles and whooping cough. By keeping these children where they could not get sufficient fresh air, they were, as the Local Government Board said, practically murdering them.

Mr. J. Newton also expressed the opinion that, with proper means of isolation, eight or nine of the ten children that had died might have been saved, and the Rev. Canon Moore said that if the Guardians delayed much longer, they would find accommodation for all the children in the cemetery. We are glad to record, therefore, that in spite of much opposition from those Guardians, who held that the removal of any class of the inmates to Stepping Hill would prove the "thin end of the wedge" in the erection of a large and costly workhouse at that place, upon a division, a resolution, in favour of sending the cases under discussion there, was carried.

Less satisfactory was the result of a division for providing increased accommodation for the nursing staff. Mr. Newton stated that twenty-seven persons were occupying rooms intended only for twenty-two; but it was decided by twelve votes to ten to defer action until a report had been received from the master of the workhouse on the subject.

A report from the Superintendent Nurse would have been more likely to be productive of good result. Moreover, the Master of the Workhouse has, we should imagine, from the conditions which we have reported, enough to occupy him in seeing to the accommodation for the inmates of the workhouse.

THE PLAGUE.

THE report that plague has broken out in Egypt will cause much anxiety, as communication between that country and European ports is frequent. It is also feared that bubonic plague has broken out on the Ivory Coast, though there is a question as to whether the disease is not yellow fever. The symptoms are swellings in the loins or armpits, and paralysis of the muscles. After three days, the sufferers usually die in great agony. Two French doctors have died of the disease. It is believed that the Government has received telegraphic communication confirming the report that the disease is bubonic plague.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)