

After this pronouncement there should be no doubt as to the meaning of the order in question.

THE *Times of India*, speaking of the Jamsetjee Jejeebhai Hospital, Bombay, draws attention to the need for an increased staff of nurses if the institution is to be adequately staffed. The building is lofty and spacious, perfect in respect of lighting and ventilation, excellently arranged for administration and supervision, and the State has exercised no niggard hand in providing its medical and surgical staff. Its association with the Grant Medical College has ensured for it the services of the best medical and surgical skill that the city can command. It is, however, according to our contemporary, seriously under-nursed.

THE condition of things now is much in advance of that which prevailed before the nursing was taken in hand by the Community of All Saints, when the ayah and ward-boy ruled supreme. Now the nursing is under the superintendence of a Sister who has, working under her, five charge nurses, twenty-six nurses, and eight ayahs. But this, for a hospital of 450 beds, is a miserably inadequate staff. The Superintending Sister does her best—of this, those who know her, and who remember how devotedly she nursed the plague patients, when the disease first broke out, although herself far from strong, will be quite certain; but the nurses at her disposal are far too few for the needs of the Hospital.

It is a moderate computation that there should be one nurse to every ward of twelve patients, with a charge nurse to every four wards. This means that there should be at least five charge nurses and forty-two nurses on day duty, and eleven on night duty. But the question is one of £ s. d., and such an increase of staff would mean that not less than 2,000 rupees a month would be required. At present the assured income available for nursing purposes does not exceed 1,000 rupees a month, while the present expenses, even with the exercise of the most rigid economy, are 1,500 rupees a month.

OUR contemporary goes on to say: "The value of the qualified nurse has been, if not discovered, at all events keenly appreciated in Bombay during our recent trials, and in many a humble chuppar shed people have learnt in the most convincing way that a hospital without nurses is less than half a hospital. There is no need to remind the people of Bombay of the transformation that some of our larger plague hospitals underwent on the day on which nursing sisters began their work of mercy there. It was a

change from chaos and almost unrelieved misery to order and comparative comfort. The only pity was that the noble band of workers was not at first larger than it was, for in plague the patient is peculiarly responsive to the vigilant and sustained care of the nurse. It is time that the lessons in the saving value of good nursing that the city has learnt since the plague first came here were practically applied in its leading hospital."

THIS is good testimony to the worth of the work done by the plague nurses. While rejoicing at this, and at the recognition that their work has received, it must not be forgotten that the first to volunteer to nurse the plague-patients were the All Saints' Sisters, whose work in this connection was heroic. In no better way could the wealthy citizens of Bombay show their appreciation of this work than by providing funds to increase the nursing staff of the Jamsetjee Hospital, for the nursing of which the All Saints' Sisters are responsible.

WE are glad to record that the latest news from East Africa is that the worst of the famine is over. A writer from Magila says: "We hope another month will tide us over it, but its effects will be with us for a *very* long time. The people are picking up a little, and food *can* be bought, but now we have a terrible epidemic of small-pox. Last week it began at Kiumba (a tiny village near Magila); there were 48 cases in that place alone, and nearly all the villages have it. We tried isolation at first, but we found it impossible, the numbers were too many to cope with. The people are dying at the rate of 6 or 8 a day at Kiumba. One of our native women has gone over there, and is doing what she can for the patients. She is very good, and helps in a wonderful way. We send over gruel, medicine, etc., from here twice a day, but we *cannot* nurse them under the present circumstances, *one* nurse and no hospital."

THOSE who know the ravages that small-pox makes in countries where vaccination is not compulsory regard with dismay the relaxation of regulations with regard to vaccination in this country. There used to be a theory that Europeans did not take "African small-pox," so complete was their exemption from it; but this was proved to be a fallacy, from the fact that, during an epidemic, a European, who was unvaccinated, contracted it and died. It would, therefore, seem that vaccination efficiently protects those who undergo it, and the same result is evident in the exemption of vaccinated natives from this dread disease.

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