

Nursing in Zanzibar.

THE arrival of Miss Caroline Saunders, of the Universities' Mission, in England, for a well earned rest, affords us an opportunity of learning something of the work which is being carried on in connection with the Hospital maintained by the Mission. The Hospital contains 33 beds, 24 of which are devoted to native patients, in wards on the ground floor, and 9 to Europeans, who are nursed in private wards above. There is also a dispensary, where a large number of out-patients are treated daily, Arabs, Hindis, Swahilis, being amongst the patients, as well as the adherents of the Mission, and any of the children in the schools who may require treatment. Many of these have been originally slaves, and the injury which their constitutions have undergone shows itself in various ways, frequently in ulcers which are very difficult to heal, and require often prolonged treatment. In addition

to the dispensary work, there is frequently a demand for the services of a nurse in the houses of the natives in the town, and should the staff of the hospital be strong enough, Miss Saunders hopes, on her return, to be able to take up this work. Frequently, however, the staff is so short-handed that every available person is required for work in the hospital itself, and outside cases cannot be undertaken. Lately the hospital has been filled to overflowing, and the nursing staff have had very hard work. At one time, out of a staff of six European nurses, only two the Matron, Miss Brewerton—whose splendid and heroic work commands the admiration of all who know her—and Miss Saunders, who has, with the exception of the occasions when she

has been off duty ill, and one holiday in England, also worked devotedly for the last six years in the Hospital, were available to perform the entire nursing. Happily, help came from England before there was a rush of work, but the strain was necessarily great, and it is these emergencies that make nursing in Zanzibar so arduous.

An interesting patient in the Hospital recently has been the four months' old son of the Sultan, who came in with his own special cradle, and the pomp befitting his position. The hospital staff considered the arrival of the little patient an honour, and a proof of the confidence of the Sultan in the powers of the English nurses. It is satisfactory to know that the child thrived under

the treatment and care he received.

As a return to England is considered necessary for the health of the members of the Universities' Mission every three years, and frequently, their return before this period has expired is found to be necessary on the score of health, Miss



A NATIVE WARD, THE ENGLISH HOSPITAL, ZANZIBAR.

Saunders is proud of the fact that each time she has come home it has been to bring a patient, and that during the last three years she has only been three weeks on the sick list. "Only one week in bed with a temperature not above 103°," she says, "just a little rest, every nurse is entitled to a week's rest sometimes."

There is, happily, at present, no epidemic of small-pox in Zanzibar, as there is on the mainland, and which, in Zanzibar itself, caused so many deaths two years ago, and strained the powers and endurance of the small nursing staff to the uttermost. Shortly before it broke out, a separate block for infectious cases had, fortunately, been completed in connection with the hospital, and here many cases were nursed. Those who

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