

Annotations.

A TIMELY APPEAL.

LADY GEORGIANA CURZON, sister of Lady Sarah Wilson, is making an urgent appeal for help for the sufferers in Mafeking, so that on the relief of the gallant little town the congratulations of Great Britain may assume the practical form of a cable announcing that "a large sum of money is ready to be placed in Colonel Baden-Powell's hands, given by this country for the relief of the distress among the Sisters, refugees, and suffering civilians of the town." She is impelled to make this appeal as a letter from Lady Sarah Wilson describes the ruin of all the small tradespeople, the demolition of the Sisters' convent by the Boer shells, and, in consequence, the ruin by the rain of their belongings left intact by shot and shell, adding much to their discomfort. No complaint, however, has passed their lips, and they have willingly assisted the hospital nurses in their duties, always having smiles and encouraging words for the sick and wounded. Of the inhabitants—without whose help even the heroic Colonel Baden-Powell could scarcely have held out—some have worked and fought in the actual trenches, and others have demonstrated their cool and courageous determination never to give in. It would be a poor return for a courage and endurance which have never been exceeded if we allowed the inhabitants of Mafeking to be financially ruined. Lady Georgiana Curzon's appeal is therefore a timely one, and we do not doubt that deeply as the public has dipped its hand into its pocket in response to many appeals, it will respond with its accustomed generosity to this, the latest and most urgent of them all. Subscriptions will be received by Messrs. Hoare and Co., Bankers, Fleet Street, E.C.

THE DANGERS OF UNSKILLED ATTENDANCE.

The dangers attendant on the bathing of patients by unskilled persons has had yet another practical illustration at the Hope Hospital, Salford, resulting in the death of a patient and the subsequent committal of the responsible attendant to take his trial on a charge of manslaughter. The patient was an imbecile who had been in the institution for nearly three years. An attendant named Henry Anthony was instructed to take the patient to the bath-room and give him a bath, he carried out the first

part of the order but entrusted the work of bathing the man to two imbecile patients. The patient was severely scalded, with the result that he died three days later. It was stated at the inquest that it is a rule of the institution that no patient is to be bathed except by an attendant, and that this rule is printed and hung up in the bath room. It is further the duty of the attendant to draw the water, and test it with a thermometer, and to see that no bath is a greater heat than 98 degrees. When the man was put back to bed the skin of the legs and other parts of the body came off with his clothes. This led to the head attendant questioning Anthony, who admitted that he had not given the bath. The matter was then reported to the chief attendant and to the doctor. The latter gave evidence that the man was severely scalded on both legs, the lower part of the back, and one arm. Three days later the man died, bronchial pneumonia being the immediate, and scalds the secondary cause of death. The Coroner in summing up said that he thought the evidence had been fairly placed before the jury by the hospital officials. There was no question as to the cause of the man's death. It was for the jury to say whether they thought Anthony had been guilty of gross negligence. If that was their verdict it would be his duty to commit him for manslaughter. The jury returned a verdict of culpable negligence, and the Coroner, in committing Anthony to take his trial on a charge of manslaughter, said that he did not think the jury could possibly have come to any other conclusion. The present seems an opportune moment to ask what systematic training is given to the attendants at this Infirmary in their duties. Are they taught not only that they must bath the patients themselves, but how it is to be done, and the dangers resulting from their neglect of orders. In short, is their training calculated to impress them with a sense of their professional responsibilities?

THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE INSTITUTE FOR NURSES.

The Committee of the Queen's Jubilee Institute for Nurses are appealing for increased subscriptions in order that the work of the Institute may be so extended, that a Queen's Nurse may be within reach of every poor person in the country when sick. The idea is admirable, and will no doubt be well supported.

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