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Editorial.

THE TRAINED NURSE AS A FACTOR IN CIVILIZATION.

WITH the onward march of progress, civilization is making its way into the remote corners of the world, and carrying in its train both good and evil gifts to the nations of the earth. Great among the blessings which follow in its wake is the trained nurse. In the western world we have now come to find her so indispensable that we can scarcely picture ourselves without her aid in seasons of sickness. But, if in the older countries she is necessary, she is doubly valuable in the lands where pioneers, working under hard conditions, need her care when they fall by the way, to fit them for the battle of life once more—lived as it is for the most part under strenuous conditions, under tropical suns, or in frigid zones.

Further, if trained in midwifery—and whatever may be said for or against invariably including this in a nurse's curriculum at home, no nurse should go abroad without a midwifery qualification—she may afford untold relief to women in their hour of peril, who would otherwise be without any skilled assistance, for in many oriental countries if a woman had

to choose between death and the services of a medical man she would unhesitatingly choose the former.

Again, the value of her aid to the sick in the lands of her adoption is incalculable. Who can estimate the total sum of unnecessary suffering and disease hidden behind the purdahs of India, in the native huts of tropical Africa, and in the million homes of China. To these she goes with gifts of healing and comfort in her hands, and her contribution to the welfare of the world at large is seen in prejudices broken down, in the triumph of health over disease, and in a truer and wider conception of life in the cramped minds of those brought into contact with her.

Nor is this the sum total of her work, perhaps not even the most valuable part of it. In many of the countries in which she works hospitals are established and become centres of education, where men and women are trained not only as nurses but in the habits of order, punctuality, cleanliness, and discipline, which are inseparable from the routine of a well-ordered hospital. Those so trained in their turn become unconscious health missionaries amongst their own people, and so the influence of the trained nurse is an ever-increasing factor in the well-being of the nations.

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