

and I am sure, from what Miss Louise C. Brent the Lady Superintendent writes to the trustees, that the faithful workers who sit to my right and left deserve all the good words that can be coined and all the good wishes that the heart can give, as they take their places with the breadwinners of the world.

"Some one has said that "the man behind the gun does the work," and that "the man with the pull" is always in evidence, but to my mind it is the "girl beside the bed," the gentle hand of that noble type of good, the daughter of Eve, one of the thousands of earth's noblest things, that shows in step and act the perfection of heroic womanhood as she moves from cot to cot and bed to bed.

"The Training School of this institution has been in existence for very many years, but it was only in 1892 that it assumed its present form under the supervision of a trained superintendent. A hundred nurses have trained during the past ten years, and those who have had the school in charge may well be congratulated on the success that has attended this feature of hospital activity. Of the hundred who have graduated many occupy important positions. About a score are superintendents and head nurses in Canadian and American hospitals. Others have not wanted for bridegrooms, and have, it is to be hoped, coupled themselves with good men and true. Three score and ten are at private nursing in the cities and towns of the Dominion, and a few, let me say it with deep regret, have passed to the brighter land. All our graduates have done well. Not a month passes but applications are received by the Lady Superintendent for nurses to fill positions in the large hospitals of this continent. Those who are engaged in responsible positions in hospital work have earned the good words of those by whom they are employed. Those who prefer private nursing have all they can do, for our graduates are rarely disengaged. Some of our graduates have in a most praiseworthy manner given lectures on nursing at the Women's Guild and have had talks for children in many of the Sunday Schools. And all this gives us so much of pleasure. Our doctors do what they can to help the nurses by lectures in the different subjects that comprise the curriculum of those in training. This class of graduates that you see before you to-night is twelve in number. Of the twelve nine obtained honors and one for excellence in general proficiency receives not only her certificate but a prize to mark her special merit.

"Now brevity is one of the verbal virtues and others have to speak. But before I sit down I want to say that the hospital work for the past year has been most satisfactory, 800 children have been comforted in its beds and cots. Over half that number have gone out hale and whole, 5,000 have had the benefit of the outdoor department and the free dispensary, and a large percentage of these were cured and improved.

"Our needs are many. Yet the burden of debt that we have carried for ten years is getting lighter and lighter, and when we see thirteen thousand golden dollars in the hands of the Treasurer the Hospital will be out of the hands of the mortgagor and unhampered in its work of mercy."

The Toronto Children's Hospital cost 175,000 dollars and has accommodation for 195 children in its wards. A Nurses' Home is shortly to be built, when its organization will be complete.

Medical Aid for Indian Women.

A meeting held in the Town Hall of Manchester, under the auspices of the Mothers' Union, considered the proposed establishment of a medical scholarship in India, to be held by a native Christian Woman, as a memorial to Queen Victoria, and estimated to cost £1,200, towards which some £200 had been provided.

Dr. Marion Hunter (late plague medical officer at Poona) stated that four or five years ago, when the plague was very bad in India, she went out there at the request of the authorities at three days' notice. She was given the care of 200 beds with plague patients, and in less than a month she had 250 beds. They had patients coming in at the rate of 60 a day for some two months, and on the average 30 or 40 a day died. The plague was largely spread owing to the extreme ignorance of the people. They thought the Queen had sent her (Dr. Marion Hunter) out because, being a woman, she would be cleverer at killing them than men, and they generally brought their friends into the hospital with them as a measure of protection. Mothers with the plague would bring in their healthy babies with them, and the babies quickly developed plague and died in a few hours. When measures were taken to confine the babies to healthy wards, the mothers, in order not to be separated from them, would give them opium and smuggle them into the sick wards tied up in bundles, which they would conceal in their beds. They were afraid that unless they kept their babies within sight the English doctors and nurses would do something curious and perhaps wicked to them. Indian women, even if dying, could not be seen by men doctors, and the result was that among women about to become mothers the rate of mortality was very high. They were at the mercy of native midwives, who were dirtier and more ignorant than Englishwomen could imagine. The cost of training native women doctors was much less than the cost of training English women doctors, and it was cheaper and better to train them in their own country than to bring them to England. She would, of course, like to see a great many medical English women in India, but the climate was against them, and they found it difficult to learn the language and to respect the customs of the people. English ignorance of and contempt for Indian ways and customs was constantly causing more trouble than anything else. We must fall in with the customs of the country, for in India native customs were of more consequence than in almost any other country. Englishmen who had won the confidence of the people could do anything with them, but if they frightened them it was impossible to do anything for them or with them. The death-rate in India was heavy because medical aid was not at hand, and when it was obtained it was not efficient. Quacks of every sort lived upon the credulity and ignorance of the people. But she did not think it was right to try to Europeanise the Indians. Our customs did not suit them, and when they had been educated in this country they acquired our superficial virtues and many of our vices, and in India they often developed into drunkards and sluggards. Everybody who knew India must recognise the extreme wisdom of Lord Curzon when encouraging native princes to be educated in their own country. She hoped that in future the native medical women would be educated

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