

where there are sisters the orderlies are generally allowed to remain for quite twelve months, only being called in to the regiment once for about a fortnight for their musketry training. At the end of the year, if the man is intelligent, conscientious, and fond of his work, it is surprising how capable a nurse he makes. I have met a few most excellent. If he is not a suitable man in every way, he can always be returned to the regiment and another man sent in his place. In addition to the practical training in the wards, the senior sister holds a class about once a week on the general principles of nursing. Very often orderlies remain three and even four years in the wards at their own request. Native servants do the roughest of the work in the wards.

I think it is quite impossible to point out the great good done by the influence of women in the wards (they must be first-class women, both technically as nurses and as ladies) and the good tone introduced by nurses fresh from the perfection of management of a civil hospital at home.

From my own experience I find the orderlies much better and more willing to learn than I expected. I have seen them so infinitely gentle when handling a sick comrade, and soldiers, when sick, behave most splendidly, and are always grateful and cheerful. For our wards all the cases are acute; when convalescent, they go to the other wards; when chronic, they come home to Netley.

When there are many cases and the work is heavy (which, by the way, it almost always is in some stations), the sister, in addition to her ordinary duties, has just got to help the orderlies, and sponging patients with the thermometer 112° in the shade is no easy work, and you can imagine how persistently one has to sponge or ice-pack in a hot climate, and how imperative it is in cases of heat-stroke and fever. Yes, after some months of this work one does, so long for the delights of the cool Himalayas; and with what a sigh of relief one wakes up the first morning of the sixty days' privilege leave. It is astonishing how many of the orderlies prefer remaining in the furnace below to what they describe as "climbing them khuds" (khud means a mountain-side).

The suggestions I would make are:—

1. That a messing allowance be granted.
2. That the number of the sisters be increased, so that no military station is without them.
3. That the sick leave might be extended to leave in England or a sea voyage if the medical officer considers it essential, the Government to provide the passage both ways. At the present time our sick leave *must* be taken in the country, and I think we all agree that India is not generally chosen as a health resort.

At the same time our Service is young, and already the Government has made many reforms,

and scarcely a year passes that one does not find some little alteration for the better, and I am sure in time it will be *almost* perfect. Our quarters are always large and comfortable, the pay is good, the amount of leave is most generous, there is a pension at the end of our service, and there is that home-feeling one has in one's quarters surrounded by one's little gods. One can keep a pony-trap or bicycle, and one can have one's live pets about one. This to an animal-lover means a great deal, and I think a real change is good for one. When off duty we can potter around in the garden, play tennis or any other game we like—golf is a favourite—and I think a good canter across the country is about the best medicine for a nurse I know of. After it, too, one goes on duty so fresh. I take it that to *really remember the men* and give them of our best when on duty, we must try to quite *forget* them when away from the wards.

Now, I am afraid you will be a wee bit disappointed at my paper, but it is quite impossible to explain everything to you unless you come out to India. I cannot expect you to believe, for instance, that the thermometer can drop 30 deg. in thirty seconds, though this is a fact.

Nursing in Calcutta.

The Government of Bengal is taking steps to place the Hospital Nurses' Institution in Calcutta on a broad and stable foundation, and a Committee has been appointed to help in raising and administering the requisite funds, the President of which is the Hon. M. C. Turner, who has for years taken a great interest in the General Hospital and who has also taken an active part in the management of public hospitals in Bombay. The names of representative ladies and gentlemen are included in the Committee. So far the nursing institution has been managed by the Trustees of the Canning Fund and the Sisters of the Canning Home, and the thanks of the Government have been expressed to these ladies, through the Lieutenant-Governor, for the great services which they have rendered for a period of over forty years in the cause of charity and for the relief of suffering. It is with their full concurrence that new arrangements have been adopted in order to meet the greater strain which the enlargement of the Calcutta Hospitals and their future growth must throw upon the Nurses' Institution.

Under the new order of things the Government will continue the same contribution which it has hitherto made to the fund, which will, however, still need to appeal to the public for support.

It is understood that under the General Committee will be two sub-committees, one for the funds of the General, and the other for those of the Medical College and attached hospitals. The movement will be watched with interest.

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