

by her certificates that she has had such training. In this country she can acquire experience of the kind at one of the hospitals of the Seamen's Hospital Society in London, and perhaps at one or two other centres, so that there is no lack of opportunity; should the nurse have had experience in a hospital in the tropics, so much the better. But we are convinced that a properly-trained nurse will be required of all shipping companies carrying passengers in the near future.

The argument that the nurse's wage is a serious element to be considered cannot be allowed for a moment. At most it may amount to £40 a year, but, even if it cost a much larger sum, her presence on board ship is a necessity to the travelling public, and the shipping companies will have to see to it that this public want is supplied; and they may rest assured that the company that provides a nurse on their ships will become a favourite line to travel by. Owners of ships and captains of ships will reply that they do not want invalids on their vessels, and were a nurse introduced the ships carrying them would be inundated with invalids. This is a form of argument that is played out. Few reforms have been obtained for seamen except by Act of Parliament; and even if ship-owners and boards of management are so shortsighted as to require legal compulsion in this matter we would warn them that even this may be imposed upon them. We understand that a movement in the direction of insisting upon trained nurses being carried on passenger ships is being instituted; and, whilst cordially supporting that movement, we hope that the shipping companies likely to be affected will see it to be their duty to the public and the Empire by doing all they can to smooth the pillows of those of our fellow-countrymen and countrywomen who carry on the work of the Empire in regions where disease is rife, and where it is well-nigh impossible to live without contracting ailments which necessitate extreme care whilst the sufferers are being conveyed to their native shores. The public purse grants subsidies to not a few of our great shipping companies, and the public welfare demands that the lives of human beings be considered of more importance than the delivery of mails or the storage of merchandise.

We learn from Miss Kate Penn, a trained nurse, that there is a movement in progress to urge "that all Liners should carry a trained nurse on board," and that those who are working for this most-needed reform are meeting with much encouragement.

The Comte de Cardi's paper appeared in the NURSING RECORD of September 1st, 1900, and should be read by those interested in the care of the sick at sea.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S IMPERIAL MILITARY NURSING SERVICE.

Miss J. G. Powell, Miss Young, and Miss H. Smart are gazetted Sisters to Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

Miss A. C. Jacob, Miss L. F. A. Waller, and Miss K. Peare are gazetted Staff Nurses to the same Service.

An Experiment in Contagious Nursing in New York.

By Miss L. L. Dock,

Henry Street Nurses' Settlement, New York.

The older members of the nursing staff of the Nurses' Settlement in Henry Street have long been troubled by the question of contagion in the tenements.

As a rule, contagious diseases are strictly banned by all district nursing associations. Those having printed rules usually state that the nurses will not be sent to contagious cases. We, having no printed rules and only such as are made by common assent, have always been rather more flexible in the matter of attending contagions than any other district nursing association that I know of, and have occasionally taken up some special case when the call was urgent. The conditions of excessive crowding in our neighbourhood make complete isolation of contagious cases so absolutely impossible that it often seemed more reprehensible to refuse some serious case than to disregard the principles of technique which, important as they are, are in practice almost grotesquely remote from the life about us. As we do not take obstetrical cases at all, it was usually possible to make some emergency arrangement.

In February last, it so happened that one nurse's services could be given entirely to this class of cases, and we decided to make an experiment which we hoped might be a demonstration and, perhaps, lead to some thoroughgoing system of oversight for these cases; Miss Hitchcock and I having visions of the free dispensaries establishing a nursing service for contagions, but Miss Wald already discerning the possibilities of municipal oversight through an extension of the functions of the Department of Health. During past administrations, when bad politics ruled, the contagious hospitals of the city were seriously neglected; more so even than other institutions, as they were less in the public eye. The Willard Parker Hospital, where the diphtheria cases were sent, was painfully inadequate in size, though the medical and nursing care were good. On North Brother's Island, a good scarlet fever pavilion was also absurdly small in bed space, and other wards were opened in decayed and broken-down shanties which a good, thrifty farmer would hardly have used for live stock.

The city of London provides hospital accommodation for 75 per cent. of its contagious cases.

The city of New York, up to 1901, had bed space for 7 per cent. These figures speak for themselves.

When Dr. Ernst J. Lederle, the present health commissioner, took charge, the better handling of contagions from all sides, both in the hospital and in the homes, was one of the many reformations

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