

We are always so pleased to get copies of League Journals—it is quite wonderful how many editors in embryo have been hidden away in the nursing world until necessity discovered them. The only question is how shall we find time in the future to extract the best from each, as the cry is, “still they come.”

We turn first to the foreign letters, longing to know what friends afar are doing. It is quite wonderful what a factor in latter-day civilisation is the well-trained nurse. In the bi-annual issue of the *Royal South Hants Nurses' League Journal*, Sister Drake, I.A.N.S., writes brightly from Meerut:—

“Our quarters here are delightful; each Sister has a sitting-room, bedroom, dressing-room, and a bathroom, and such beautifully lofty rooms. We have between fifty and sixty beds in the hospital, which is just the other side of the Compound, and there is plenty to be done; at first I thought I never should get into it. The orderlies and ward boys (natives) do most of the nursing, but we have to superintend everything, much harder work, I think! except in the case of the officers. Then we are expected to do the sponging, &c. We have a terrible lot of enteric just now, and have lost four patients in two weeks, which is terribly distressing. It seems so much worse for them to die out here, away from their people, and some of them are such boys; when we see letters arriving for them afterwards in laboured writing, we realise what the friends have to go through.”

“My idea of Army Nursing Sisters having no work to do has been quite dissipated. We have been, and still are, very busy, having had an outbreak of enteric, the 15th Hussars being the chief sufferers. One Sister being away leaves only five of us: one for night duty, two for day duty in the officers' ward, and two for the Tommies. We are never two of us on together. One morning I go on from 7.30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and the next day I go on from 2.30 p.m. till 8 p.m., and so on, our morning and afternoon always falling so that we get nice long hours off. We have from six to eight orderlies on at a time, all very good fellows, and so willing. Except for the officers we do none of the actual nursing, it is all done by orderlies or native ward boys. You have only just time to give medicines and stimulants, and take temperatures, alter and superintend all the diets, which is such a business, before the Medical Officer does his first round from 8 to 10. He generally takes three hours. He is attended by his assistant surgeon, cook, and three or four natives carrying basins, &c. Another head orderly comes round and undoes patients, and then tidies up beds. I carry round the night report book, as it is quite impossible to remember details of forty-eight to fifty patients, and take down the new orders from bed to bed. As soon as the Medical Officer has gone I sit down with the diet sheets, medicine boards, &c., and make all the necessary alterations in the treatments, getting up every ten minutes or so for medicines, brandies, &c. You also give the head orderly the list of enemas (generally about fourteen) and the hundred-and-one things we should do ourselves, syringing ears, putting on pneumonia jackets, &c., and this takes up all your time till two o'clock, when we get tiffin.

In the afternoon it is temperatures, medicines, filling in the charts, before the Medical Officer's visit at 6.30 p.m., after which there are all the alterations again, but, of course, not to so great an extent. It is all very nice, and the time simply flies when on duty. All this is the professional side.”

“How I love the bands! As I sit now writing they are playing for the 15th Hussars' mess (it is 8 p.m.), and the familiar English tunes make me feel quite heart-hungry, but I never wish myself home, or regret coming out here. . . . It is rather strange to hear the jackals in the distance. Sometimes the Sisters say they come and look in at the ward doors, but as they are very frightened animals there is no cause for alarm. Snakes, however, are very plentiful, and in the rainy season it is never safe to go from our quarters to the hospital without a lantern. Twice cobras have been found in the Sisters' bathrooms. . . . I like India very much, and have a terrible wish to see more of it. It seems such a wonderful country, and my few days in Bombay filled me with admiration; the view from the Malabar Hill over the bay is one of the views of the world.”

Miss Snively, of the Toronto General Hospital, gives some interesting details of a Preparatory Course for Nurses started in February. She says:—“There will be eleven graduating in June, so that my Fall Class will be largely composed of these. The second term began on April 11th, consequently the prospect for the future is excellent.” The following is the circular issued on the subject by the Hospital:—

PRELIMINARY TRAINING OF NURSES.

With the gradual raising of the standard in various departments of educational work, it is not unnatural that renewed attention should be directed to the preliminary training of nurses.

The need of an institution for the education of nurses, in which such subjects as anatomy, physiology, medical chemistry, dietetics, cookery, household economics, &c., are taught before the actual work of hospital nursing is undertaken, has long been felt.

After due consideration, the authorities of the Toronto General Hospital Training-School for Nurses have decided upon adopting a preparatory course under the auspices of the Technical School, College Street, Toronto.

The technical school will give a certificate to those who complete the full course, consequently intending applicants to the training-school for nurses are notified that after this date candidates who do not hold a certificate of the preparatory course, provided they are otherwise eligible, cannot be considered. The course requires two terms of three months each, from 9 a.m. until 3.30 p.m. daily, beginning January 4th, 1904, and ending June 15th, with the usual Easter vacation.

The fee is 10 dols. per term. The subjects considered are anatomy, physiology, medical chemistry, hygiene, bacteriology, dietetics, cookery, household economics, English language, vocal expression.

The St. Louis Nurses' Association has been organised for the mutual benefit of local nurses, and for the entertainment of visiting nurses during the World's Fair.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)