

Lying-in Home for the married poor. In deference to their wishes, the Committee of the new Women and Children's Hospital opened a small maternity department, containing five beds, and the women sent there by the Ladies' Committee have been most grateful for the comfort and attention they have received. The number of beds, however, is quite inadequate to the needs of this large city, and it is understood that this limited accommodation cannot be increased.

The Committee quote the letter of a nurse who for six and a-half years had worked in the slums of the city, and who so far back as 1897 wrote as follows:—

"Often two or three people sleep in the same room, and even in the same bed. I have seen the lying-in bed in the kitchen, where all the meals were taken. Frequently there is a lack of the food and nourishment so much needed by the patient at these times." Again, she says:—"Many of these poor women are attended by self-styled midwives, who hold no certificate. They pocket their small fee, and do not care whether the woman gets up or not, whether she lives or dies." And once more, to quote from her letter:—"You may often find a woman up washing on the third or fourth day after confinement. If you point out the danger of this, you will have in reply: 'Well, what are we to do? The clothes are all dirty; we cannot pay to have them washed; what must we do?'"

After 1910 unqualified persons will be prohibited by the Midwives' Act from acting as midwives. In all other respect, says the Committee, the nurse's words are as true now as when she penned them eight years ago, and her testimony is borne out by medical men and visitors amongst the poor. An appeal is, therefore, being made for funds to maintain a Maternity Home of twelve beds. It is to be hoped the efforts will meet with success.

At a meeting of the subscribers to the Preston and County of Lancaster Queen Victoria's Royal Infirmary, the Rev. C. M. Clarke said there was one thing he wished the Board of Management would undertake, and that was the employment of district nurses. It was a matter he had very much at heart. There were now in Preston three such trained nurses, who visited people in their homes, and he thought it would be a very good thing if the Board could see their way to engage nurses to visit the out-patients. If they started such an undertaking and appealed to the public for funds, he was sure they would find a ready response. The proposition was agreed to.

At an inquest held at Canterbury last week on a child of six, who died in Canterbury Sanatorium, a probationer nurse said that the medicine was labelled "One tablespoonful every four hours," and

she administered a tablespoonful. Subsequently the Charge Nurse told her that the proper dose was a teaspoonful. The inquiry was adjourned.

The varied articles in the *League News* of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses' League show how Bart's nurses are to be found in all parts of the world.

Writing from Kashmir, Miss S. Harland says:—

"During a delightful riding tour from Gujrat, in the Punjab, to Srinagar, in Kashmir, by way of the Pir Punjab Pass, I had the opportunity of visiting the hospital in the Native State of Poonah. The hospital is situated in the middle of the city, and the streets are so narrow and crooked that it is quite impossible for a carriage to drive along them, so the Rajah very kindly sent his state elephant for us; and a very magnificent animal it looked, standing nearly 9 ft. high, with its huge tusks ringed with gold, and almost covered with a cloth of scarlet all embroidered with gold, and on its back a magnificent old gilt howdah ornamented with lions and goddesses.

"We were quite high up amongst the walnut-trees, and saw over the roof of the bazaar as we went along. At the hospital the native doctor, Surgeon Behari Lal Kabra, received us, and spoke excellent English as he showed us over the buildings. He had been there eight years, and worked hard, with little assistance. In 1897 he treated 2,500 out-patients; but, as no diet was given, it was difficult to get patients to stay. In 1899 diet was given, and during the year 267 were admitted. Last year the Rajah added another block for women, in memory of his wife, the Rani Sirmori. It contains ten single rooms, three of which were occupied by Mohammedan and five by Hindoo women when I saw them. At the same time they engaged an Indian widow, who had been trained at the Agra Hospital for two years to nurse the women, but each patient also brings in a friend to wait upon them.

"The nurse is paid £5 5s. a month, with an additional sum from the Rajah for daily attendance at the palace zenana. She also keeps the out-patient books for the doctor, writing all notes in English. About 100 major and 605 minor operations were performed last year, and the out-patients increase very rapidly, coming in from the villages in the mountains. There are a great number of eye cases, much dysentery, and also malaria, with its numerous attendant ills—for every available bit of the mountainous country of Poonah is irrigated for rice culture, and is a happy hunting-ground for malaria. They treat dysentery largely with Baile fruit, and have it sent up fresh from Bombay, as it is far more efficacious when given fresh than the liquid extract is.

"In 1902, when the plague was near Poonah, the Rajah and seventy of his officials, though all strict Hindoos, were inoculated in public by Major Edwards, M.D., and the next day 450 people came and asked to be inoculated. These were followed by hundreds of others, so the Rajah's brave example probably saved many lives, for when the plague came they had but few deaths, and were soon able to stamp it out."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)