

of starting such a scheme and insuring the necessary funds, a circular letter has been addressed by the Government to official and non-official residents, asking for their co-operation and for subscriptions towards the money needed. It is proposed that the benefits of the scheme should be open to all who subscribe at least one rupee a month, whilst during the time the services of one of the nurses were required the charge would be 5 Rs. for subscribers and 6 Rs. for non-subscribers per day per nurse.

"The great advantages of trained nursing for the European portion of the community in India can hardly be over-estimated. At present time they are dependent on the services of Eurasian women who have received a year's training in one of the Government training schools, a length of time quite insufficient to insure a complete and thorough training. The success of the Army Nursing Sisters in India shows that such work can be done by European women, and the possibility of obtaining the assistance of a trained English nurse would undoubtedly be a great boon to the many European women who must from time to time be in sore need of such skilled attendance.

"The question must, of course, be considered whether it is right and just for the Government to import and to subsidise such a body of women to compete with the Eurasian women whom it has trained in its own schools. No doubt such competition would bear hardly on these women, as there can be no doubt that the sick European would prefer the services of his own countrywoman. We have received a letter from Rangoon calling our attention to this side of the question, and maintaining that the duty of the Government is rather to provide longer and better training for the Eurasian nurses already available, and thus to improve their efficiency and status. He is of opinion that the work is unsuitable for European nurses, who would be unable to stand its hardships and who would quickly have to abandon it. No doubt there is something to be said for this side of the question, but such considerations can hardly be allowed to prevail in a matter of so great importance to all the members of the English community in these countries. We think that it will be found that there is room for both classes of nurses, and that the new scheme, if it can be successfully carried out, will prove of the greatest benefit both to the public and to the medical men practising in India and in Burma."

There is no doubt that the first duty of the Indian Government is to the people it governs, and it is urgently necessary that a better standard of training for Eurasian nurses should be established. The private nursing question has ever been a difficulty in India, and the Up-Country Nursing Association, which has done good work, has found it so. The truth is that European nurses cannot work the long hours in the Indian climate they work at home, and we gather from Lady Curzon's scheme that it is

proposed to charge the same fees for private nurses in India which are charged at home.

This is a mistake, as women, cheap as they are, will not work in tropical climates for the nominal fees they are often content to take at home. If well-trained English nurses are to be encouraged to work in climates notoriously trying to the health they must be paid justly to do so. The reason that the fees are so inadequate in India is the reason, we are told on good authority, that the supply of well-trained private nurses does not equal the demand.

We hear from New York that Sir Henry Burdett means to publish his "sheet" in the United States, and that he has been very busy during his recent visit there interviewing the Superintendents of training-schools. Of course, Sir Henry knows his own business best, but if his paper is to succeed in the States he must curb his unscrupulous attacks upon members of our profession who stand for professional progress and organisation. Our amiable American sisters are made of different stuff to the class of nurse for whom the lay nursing press caters in this country, and they understand the value of professional solidarity.

Presumably the outcome of this latest move will be the weekly issue of the *American Journal of Nursing*, a departure which would be of universal benefit to nurses. The savage onslaught in a recent issue of the *Hospital* on the Registrationists and their "amateur" friends should sound a note of warning to all self-respecting American nurses. They have our sincere sympathy should they in the future be subjected to the "tactics of disintegration" which have cost English nurses so much in the past, but which are now widely discredited in the United Kingdom.

The troubles of Boards of Guardians in connection with the nursing of the sick seem never ending. The truth is that the majority of these Boards are in no way qualified to deal with nursing, and so fail to maintain discipline and efficient work in workhouse wards.

Apennyinsidus.

An old man recovering from an operation for appendicitis remarked to his nurse that he "'ad 'urd that in these days we all 'ad apennyinsidus."

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