

been the great work of her life, Miss Stevenson's activities have found many other outlets. As a guardian of the poor, and a member of various committees charged with important work in Edinburgh, she has abundantly shown how high an ideal she sets herself of the duties of citizenship. It is fitting that one who was so instrumental in bringing University degrees within reach of women should herself receive our highest degree."

It was a fine tribute to a fine woman. The cordial reception accorded to Miss Stevenson when she stepped forward to receive the honour proved how thoroughly the action of the Senatus was appreciated by those present.

Yours faithfully,

A SCOTTISH WOMAN.

RELIGIOUS CRUELITIES IN INDIA.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—“Religious Brutalities” is an appeal to English humanitarians by Mr. Labhshankar Laxmidas, who has done a great public service by the courage and persistency with which he has exposed some of the horrible cruelties practised in India under the sanction of religious rites. It is to be regretted that, as appears from the correspondence printed in his pamphlet, the Indian Government is disinclined to give the subject the attention it deserves. There is a class of Brahmins, Mr. Laxmidas informs us, who annually offer animal sacrifices, and the victims are killed in some cases by a slow process of excruciating torture. Here is an instance:—

“First, the animal is worshipped with a Vedic hymn, and gods are invoked to dwell in every part of its body. It is then sent into the slaughter room, where its four legs are tied, and its mouth is filled with husked rice and then tightly bound with a string. After this, the animal is repeatedly struck with fists by Sudra Brahmins like dough, and when it is all but dead, and moving a little, its body is cut up into several pieces, which are then brought out for use in the sacrifice.”

It is evident from Mr. Laxmidas's statement that the ordinary law cannot be trusted to deal adequately with such cases; for in the Indian Act which deals with cruelty to animals there is a passage (Sec. xi.) which runs as follows:—

“Nothing in this Act shall render it an offence to kill any animal in a manner required by the religion or religious rites and usages of any race, sect, tribe, or class.”

It is for the repeal of this Section of the Act that Mr. Laxmidas has again and again petitioned the Indian authorities, but without receiving any but the most evasive official replies. We venture to hope that the new Secretary of State for India will look into the matter; for though the principle of toleration in all that relates to religious ceremonial is in itself a wise one, it can hardly be made to cover such atrocious brutalities as those which the pamphlet describes. Well may Mr. Laxmidas ask “How long will British Government allow such satanical deeds to be perpetrated under the protection of its law?”

Yours faithfully,

JOSEPH COLLINSON.

Humanitarian League,
53, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.

Comments and Replies.

To Correspondents in France.—The Hon. President of the International Council of Nurses will not visit Paris before August.

Maternity Pupil.—A normal infant born at full term weighs about 7lb. It should always be weighed at the time of the first bath, and regularly at intervals afterwards, as the weight-chart forms a valuable guide as to the progress made by the child. Scales are obtainable from many of the leading instrument makers for this purpose.

Miss Thompson.—We should advise you by all means to study dietary and attend practical cookery classes while waiting to enter a hospital training school. Diet enters very largely into the adequate care of the sick, and its importance is being increasingly recognised. To a private nurse ability to select the most nutritious diet, and to direct its preparation, is a most valuable asset.

Matron.—Under the rules of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association, General Hospitals, in order to be eligible for recognition and registration as Training Schools, must furnish the Council of the Association with the names of the nurses attending the systematic courses of lectures given in the schools, the dates of entering upon their studies, and evidence as per Roll Book that they have attended at least four-fifths of the lectures delivered in each subject.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

All those desirous of helping on the important movement of this Society to obtain a Bill providing for the Legal Registration of Trained Nurses will find an application form on advt. page vi., or can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

Those nurses who are working on behalf of the above Society, and are endeavouring to spread knowledge as to its aims, may be glad to know that they can now obtain a Memorandum, giving briefly the reasons why Registration is necessary, from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Price 6d. for 20 copies.

Those interested in the efficient organisation of nursing should procure the Annual Report of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses from the Hon. Secretary. Six copies, post free, 7d., or one copy 1½d. It gives a brief review of the history of State Registration.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The Editor will at all times be pleased to consider articles of a suitable nature for insertion in this Journal—those on practical nursing are specially invited. The Editor will also be pleased to receive paragraphs, such as items of nursing news, results of nurses' examinations, new appointments, reports of hospital functions, also letters on questions of interest to nurses, and newspapers marked with reports of matters of professional interest.

Such communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page viii.

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