

putation of the hospital extended that patients come to it even from places as far distant as Nepal and Mecca.

Lord Lamington said it was a matter of deep regret to him to come to a function of this kind without Lady Lamington. She was most anxious to befriend institutions of this sort, and the improvement of the various nursing associations in the Bombay Presidency was very near her heart. It would have been of peculiar interest to her to be present on this occasion. Lord Lamington also said that funds for the further equipment of the hospital, and of the new building now in process of erection, were needed. A new theatre was also wanted, and bedding, linen, and so forth. The Hospital had a world-wide reputation for efficiency. The Government was anxious that some means should be provided not only for new buildings in connection with this and other hospitals, but for the upkeep of the beds.

At the Annual Meeting of St. George's Hospital Nursing Association, Bombay, the Committee in their report expressed their appreciation of the work done by Miss C. R. Mill, the Lady Superintendent of the Hospital, and her Assistant, Miss Wason, who continue to show the utmost zeal, in the welfare and progress of the institution.

The Private Nursing Staff is, as it should be, entirely self-supporting, and the contributions from the public are devoted to maintaining the Nursing Establishment in the wards of the hospital, which costs about 40,000 rupees annually. The hospital staff consists of 40 nurses, 7 being sisters, 14 senior, 12 junior, and 7 probationer nurses. There are 18 private nurses, and the demand for their services is becoming greater than the Association can meet. During the past year they have attended 320 cases, amongst these 93 were cases of small-pox, and other infectious diseases, 22 plague, and 1 confinement case, while 7 nurses went to England in charge of patients.

It is proposed to found a General Nursing Service for the Presidency of Bombay, and the formation of the Central Committee is in the hands of Surgeon-General Greany, who has communicated with all medical officers under his control, and also with the Principal Medical Officers at Sind and Aden, requesting them to ask each of the Nursing Associations in their provinces to nominate two members to serve on the Central Committee. A meeting of the delegates was held on April 19th.

Our Foreign Letter.

FROM CHILE.



After the earthquake of the 16th August* that left—among other cities and villages—the beautiful town of Valpar-

also a mere heap of smoking ruins, a great calm fell upon the nation. It was not the grief and astonishment, anguish, or regret that made one realise the greatness of the convulsion, so much as the extraordinary *reserve* of a naturally lively and communicative people. In outlying districts, less severely tried, where everyone was waiting, waiting, waiting for many terrible days for news that would not come, a hush seemed to have fallen on the very children. All usual interests were paralysed. People ate and drank and walked mechanically, and worked, worked, worked feverishly for one cause, one purpose. The soul of a whole people, the imagination of an entire nation centred in one awful tragedy, too great for words.

There was little conversation on the subject till long afterwards—that is to say, comparatively speaking. Nobody seemed strong-minded enough to form phrases that could pass for conversation on so awful a holocaust.

The shock was felt throughout the length of Chile, although it centralised in the district around Valparaiso.

The earth literally heaved, and seemed to have lost all solidity. People were often unable to keep their balance, and fell, trying to escape from the crash of the buildings. The telegraph poles with their wires became entangled in masses of struggling human beings, and many deaths occurred thus among those who had already reached the open air.

All communication between the central district and other human habitations was entirely and completely interrupted for long days after the catastrophe.

In the usual centres of commerce and traffic thousands lay crushed under masses of fallen masonry—hundreds lingered to die. Among the uninjured there was not one who had not lost some dear relative, friend, or acquaintance—there was not one who had not witnessed scenes of horror—and close upon those scenes followed the natural consequence of isolation: hunger, want, and sickness.

It speaks volumes that under these circumstances the authorities of Valparaiso and surrounding districts not only rapidly restored civic order, but arranged to allay panic, organise relief, and promptly punish insubordination.

*The recent news of another terrible earthquake in Chile makes this letter exceptionally interesting.—Ed.

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