

Nursing in India.

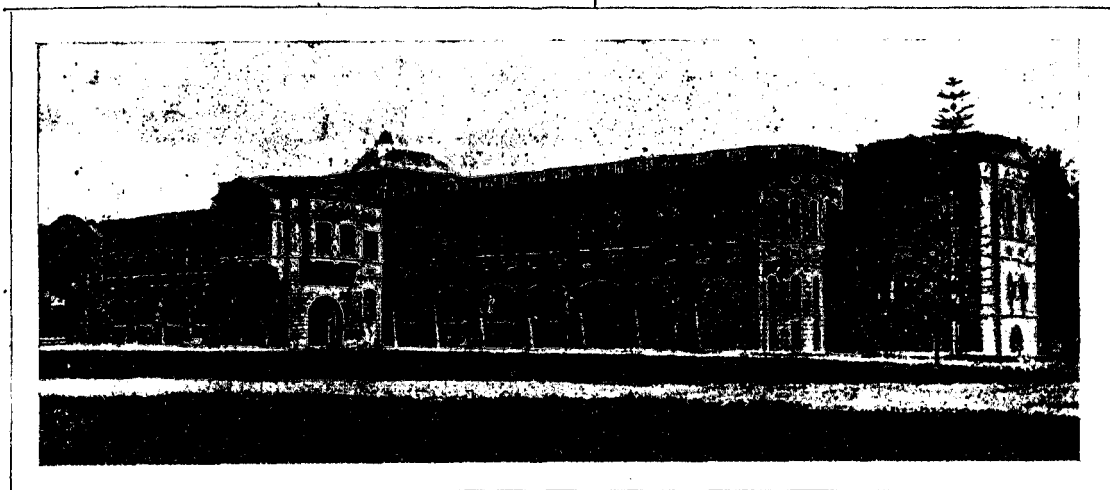
THE PRESIDENCY GENERAL HOSPITAL, CALCUTTA.

Our illustration on this page is of the fine new block for paying patients, recently opened by the Lieutenant-Governor, his Honour Sir Andrew Fraser, in connection with the Presidency General Hospital, Calcutta, in memory of Sir John Woodburn, a former Lieutenant-Governor, during whose term of office the scheme was initiated. Sir Montague Turner, a distinguished citizen of Calcutta, gave 30,000 rupees towards the scheme, and another 30,000 was given from the surplus of Lumsden's Horse Fund, on condition that two beds should be available, at half rates, for Mounted Volunteers. The new block is to be known as the Woodburn Block for paying patients.

countries. In Europe nursing has, in recent years, developed into quite a science, and is now chiefly in the hands of highly educated and highly trained ladies, of whom there are numbers available and eager to learn. Women of this country have no conception of nursing, in the proper sense of the word, and until a radical change takes place in their habits and customs and feelings, and until they are better educated, our difficulties will not be overcome. They would neither subject themselves to the necessary training, nor, on account of their ingrained prejudices, will they fulfil the functions daily performed by an European nurse."

A WISE RULER.

Bhopal, an independent native state in Central India, is unique in having a woman at the head of affairs.



THE WOODBURN BLOCK FOR PAYING PATIENTS, PRESIDENCY GENERAL HOSPITAL, CALCUTTA.

The credit for the arrangements of the new block is due to the Surgeon-Superintendent of the Hospital, Lieut.-Col. H. W. Pilgrim, M.B., F.R.C.S. The nursing of the hospital is a point of some difficulty, as it is officially stated that, while the nursing is good, the general efficiency is impaired by the presence of a large number of junior nurses of one and two years' training, due to the increased demands at high rates for good nurses outside. This leads to such nurses leaving the hospital as soon as they obtain their certificates, and points to the necessity of improving the conditions of service. The report goes on to say: "The question of nursing in all our hospitals, both European and native, is now one of our main difficulties, and in which we fall so much behind similar institutions in more advanced

It is said to be the best governed native State in India. The present ruler and her mother who preceded her as head of the State "have displayed the highest capacity for administration."

The present Begum Nawab Sultan Jahan, G.C.I.E., is a woman who believes in female education, and does all she can to forward it. She is also specially interested in medical work among the women.

The Lady Lansdowne Hospital for women has been built by the Royal Family. It is in charge of a fully qualified English lady doctor. There is a Matron and eight native nurses on the staff.

Last year her Highness suggested a scheme for the hospital staff to systematically visit the houses in the city.

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