

Lady Minto's Nursing Association.

Her Excellency the Countess of Minto presided at a recent meeting of the Central Committee of Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association at the Viceregal Lodge, Calcutta, when a very interesting report was presented by Mrs. E. Davies, Chief Lady Superintendent. In connection with the *Punjab Branch* it is proposed to abandon the Home at Kasauli, where there are four nurses, at the close of the year, and to locate the whole Nursing Staff at Murree during the summer, and at Pindi during the cold season. All medical reports received have testified to the general efficiency of the Nursing Sisters and to the satisfactory work achieved by them.

It has also been decided in *Eastern Bengal and Assam* to abandon Shillong as a nursing centre (it being considered too inaccessible), and to establish in its place a Home at Dibrugarh. A very charming bungalow facing the river has been secured, with a view of the distant hills in the foreground. It has accommodation for the Lady Superintendent and three Nurses. The two Shillong Sisters and one from Silchar will shortly be installed in the new Home under the supervision of the Lady Superintendent, whose headquarters it will be. It has been decided that the Lady Superintendent shall spend a portion of her time in Silchar, where a room is reserved for her use. The rainy season has proved a particularly unhealthy one in both Assam proper and Sylhet, and the calls upon the services of the Nursing Sisters have been quite incessant. They have been much appreciated, and several of them are deserving of special mention for the efficient manner in which they have dealt with their various cases, sometimes under very trying circumstances.

Rajputana Branch.—On Tuesday, July 21st, by the desire of her Excellency the Lady President, Mrs. Davies reported that she proceeded to Ajmer, the headquarters of the Rajputana Branch of Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association, and visited the Home, which is pleasantly situated in a large compound where a tennis court has been laid out for the benefit of the Nursing Sisters by those who have manifested much interest in their comfort. The bungalow itself is most comfortable. It is now modestly, but adequately furnished, and the sisters are very content with their surroundings, and living in perfect harmony, and are apparently quite happy. They have recently, through the kindness of the Honorary Secretary of the local Committee, been made

honorary members of the Club. On all sides the Nursing Sisters are much appreciated, and they have proved themselves thoroughly efficient.

Burma Branch.—The Nursing Staff of this Branch now consists of six nurses. It would have been possible to recruit the nurses locally, but a provision laid down was that they must be diplomaed midwives, and none of the local applicants had this qualification. There is every reason to believe that the Nursing Sisters have proved a great source of comfort and satisfaction.

Bengal Branch.—With reference to the formation of a Branch in Bengal of the Nursing Association, there is ground for much encouragement, for the proposal seems to have been favourably received in that Province, and the general opinion is that it would be advisable to ask Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association to take over the duty of providing efficient nurses for private individuals in the Province of Bengal—subject to the proviso that a certain number of appointments be reserved for locally-trained nurses. Her Excellency has expressed her willingness to consider this proposal, and has suggested that one-third of the appointments be reserved for this purpose.

NEW RULES.

The following rulings were placed before the Central Committee and were formally sanctioned.

A definite ruling regarding the question of a retaining fee to be charged in all maternity cases having been demanded by the branches, it was agreed that fees should be charged from the specified date whether the services of the nursing sister were required or not.

The demand from the branches for nurses with midwifery qualification having become more and more pronounced it was ruled that, in future, all nursing sisters must hold their midwifery diploma with the additional experience of private nursing.

It is obvious that a varying standard of qualifications is bound to present complications as far as the organisation of the Association is concerned.

The messing allowance granted to nursing sisters when travelling on duty was increased from Rs. 5 to Rs. 6 per diem, the former sum having proved insufficient.

When a nurse is demanded by a non-subscriber the said nurse is liable to be recalled upon 24 hours' notice, if a subscriber should require her services, unless the applicant at once forwards the usual qualifying subscription (according to income) to the local branch.

Those persons who tender their subscriptions to cover an immediate case of sickness will be required to pay at full non-subscribers' rates (such rates also to be regulated according to income) for a period of one week before being permitted to enjoy the privilege rates conceded to subscribers.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)