

under the new Association, not to seek such work, because, not only is Indian life most trying to Englishwomen, but the Nursing market there is already overcrowded. To those others who proposed to subscribe, we can only express our conviction that, with proper organization, the scheme should be more than self-supporting, and that, at any rate, so far as we have been able to learn, no case has been made out for converting what might well become a profitable commercial business into a pseudo-charitable concern.

THE WIDENING OF THE RIFT.

AS our readers will observe, from a letter which appears in another column, the London Hospital has been driven to a somewhat stale device. Much indignation has been aroused amongst influential Governors of that Charity, by the injustice with which the Nurses are treated—as exemplified in the case of Nurse Fisher to which we recently alluded. The Nurses have consequently been called upon to sign a paper stating that they are thoroughly well treated in this “very happy Hospital.” We hear from others than our correspondent, that this is causing considerable searching of hearts, because, very naturally, many dislike placing their signatures to a palpable falsehood. But they know that if they do not do so, their task masters will permit them to be summarily discharged from the Hospital, and their Nursing careers—that is to say, their ability to earn their living by the profession they have chosen—ruined. They remember how a similar document was, with similar spontaneity, prepared and presented to the Select Committee of the House of Lords in 1890; how it was discovered that Nurses’ signatures had been forged to that document; and how those who refused to sign it, had their services dispensed with. But if the London Hospital Nurses were wise, they would not submit to this indignity. They would combine in resistance, and would send in a letter to the Committee stating that they could not sign this paper, because its statements were not true; and they would send this letter to us for publication in the London and provincial papers. We and others of our contemporaries, and we may add many of the Governors and some even of the House Committee, sympathise with the Nurses, but no one can do anything to help them unless they will make some attempt to help themselves.

PROFITABLE POISONING.

FROM our contemporary, *The Medical Pioneer*, we learn in this month’s issue a great deal that is very instructive and interesting about Indian hemp, and the efforts made to deal with the sale and production of it. Mr. Westmacott, one of the ablest men in the Indian Civil Service, Commissioner of Excise, in last year’s

report, commenting on a slight falling off in the revenue from Ganja, says:—“I think it must be held satisfactory that there is a decreased consumption of *this most pernicious article*.”

Mr. Plowden, the Commissioner of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts, urges in his last report the entire prohibition of the cultivation and sale of hemp drugs. Yet in spite of the opinion of experts like the above, and of the sound portion of the community in India against this deadly drug, we find the Lieutenant-Governor actually delivering himself in this fashion, and declaring that ganja and opium are *like alcohol, a food of a highly concentrated nature*. It is simply lamentable to think that anyone occupying a responsible position should be in such outer darkness as to the nature of alcohol, opium, and Indian-hemp; but for such ignorance to declare itself in an administrative report, augurs the worst for the manner in which it must disport itself in every-day life.

It is also humiliating to note the action of the Governments of Greece, Egypt, and Turkey, in regard to “Haschich” (another name for Indian-hemp), and compare them with the utterances of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, as above. The Sanitary Board of Greece has issued a report on the subject at the instance of the Government, and the following is one of their recommendations:—“Its use should be immediately and rigorously forbidden, that the cafés which supply haschich to their customers should be closed, that the importation of Indian hemp and of its preparations as an article of trade—not for medicinal purposes—and its cultivation in Greece should be forbidden by law.” The closing sentence of their report says—“The Sanitary Board greatly fears that if the use of haschich be not forbidden at once it will imperceptibly and gradually extend into a wider circle, not only among the common refuse of society, but among the nation itself, and will shortly produce those disastrous results of which a condensed but faithful picture has been given above, and which have been observed in hot countries and have caused so much misery among them.” But alas, a profit of £200,000 too often blinds the eyes of those who have to do with the revenue, and Indian hems appears to have obscured the mental vision of others, besides the consumers of it in India.

GINX’S BABY AGAIN.

GINX’S baby is not yet done with, as an object lesson. This time, the fright is over a dead, instead of a living, child, and is as follows:—A lad of ten died in the Children’s Hospital, Goldsmith’s Row, some time ago, and the body laid for more than a week in the mortuary awaiting burial. The parents, who are Plaistow people, could not afford the expense of a funeral, neither could the grandmother, while the local guardians repudiate liability. In these circumstances, the grandmother asked Mr. Bushby, at Worship Street, what she could do. Mr. Roberts, assistant clerk to the guardians, said there was a similar case some years ago, on which Counsel’s opinion was taken, and it was decided that the liability to bury rested with the authorities of the Hospital

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