came, and every question was raised again from the beginning. That these particular difficulties have now almost disappeared, is proof that the Sisters' work is becoming generally known and thoroughly recognised. But other trials remain. Nurses must not expect to find themselves Sisters of wards, each one mistress of her own ward. On the contrary, they must be prepared to find that there is no part of the work that they can call exclusively their own. In each of the Hospitals where Nursing Sisters are employed, one or more wards are given over into their especial charge, also an officers' ward, or small rooms for the reception of sick officers. Owing to the lack of a constant supply of trained and intelligent assistance the Nurses must take their work by turns in the same wards, so that one of them may be always on duty, and it is absolutely essential that they should subordinate their work one to another; they must all carry it on on the same lines, else the work will be without method, and the orderlies, instead of learning, will be only confused and puzzled. This in itself is a difficulty, especially when the Nurses have been trained in different Hospitals, and it is especially a trial to those who have held responsible or independent posts in England. It requires a great deal of mutual tact and good feeling to carry it through successfully, for one discontented or unruly member can destroy the peace and happiness of a whole household.

Absolute and loyal obedience to their Superintendent is a point insisted on in the Service. But in a small household of three or perhaps four women living together, the strict routine and obvious discipline of a Hospital naturally does not exist. Hence the position of Deputy Superintendent is by no means an easy one to fill; but she is held responsible for everything that takes place in the household, and for the good nursing in the wards, and unless she has authority, and unless the Sisters under her charge render her ready and loyal obedience, differences of opinion and disputes will arise, and trouble will certainly ensue.

It is impossible to give any idea of the amount of work to be done, for it is very irregular. In some of the larger stations there is nearly always a tolerably steady average, but there are frequently lulls, and in small places often long lulls with little to do, and the work will be very dull indeed. But all places, even the most healthy, are liable to severe occasional outbreaks of fever or pneumonia.

CLIMATE.

Then, of course, the climate is a serious trial to be reckoned with. There are two or three stations from where, for various causes, the Sisters are sent up with the majority of the troops to a hill station every hot weather, and though this entails some discomforts, and a good deal of additional expense in various ways, it is certainly a great privilege; but most Sisters have to remain in the plains all the year round, except when they can get away on leave, and though comparatively few troops are left in the plains, there is generally plenty of work to be done there in the summer, when, in spite of doors closed by wet tatties and other appliances for excluding the heat, the temperature of the ward is seldom below 100°, and often much higher. The treatment of fever cases then largely consists of incessant spongings, icepacks, and douchings, and this, of course, involves an immense amount of labour.

Nursing in a hill station sometimes means a transfer to the "Station Hospital" in one of the summer resorts, where the conditions of work (except for the cool climate) are carried on precisely the same as in the plains. In some cases it has involved both living in and nursing the patients in temporary huts or in tents. Here matters are necessarily more rough and ready, and the cold and damp during the monsoon rains are often a great trial. I think no one who has not experienced it can imagine the intense damp of these times. One's boots grow fresh crops of mushrooms every day. Salt placed on the table vanishes into a little puddle before one's eyes, and everything not made of wool always feels wet through. It is impossible to use sheets on the beds for that reason, and one often has to splash courageously through waterfalls and deep mud to reach one's patients! Still it does not always rain even in the monsoon, and to live on a hill top surrounded by forest, with glorious views of blue peaks all round, and snowy mountains beyond, is a joy which compensates for much; and then as soon as the rains begin to break the climate is lovely, there are days of sunshine almost perfect, and the nights, especially moonlight nights, spent on night duty, have a fascination all their own. On the whole it is a very healthy life, and year by year Government is building more barracks and permanent Hospital huts to replace the tents in all the hill stations.

DISEASES.

There is comparatively little surgical work in the hospitals. The diseases one has mostly to contend with are enteric or remittent fevers, pneumonia, rheumatism, dysentery and liver abscess, and in the hot weather, heat apoplexy. All these diseases are generally influenced by the presence of malaria, which, besides causing independent attacks of fever, frequently interferes in the course of other illnesses, and

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