

safe liberty of action than many a girl living in her father's house might safely enjoy. Nurses out here are far more prominent in the eyes of the community than Nurses in England. Everyone criticises them; and should one of them, perhaps from mere thoughtlessness, "get herself talked about," as the saying is, there is no one to stand up for her, or to vouch for her in any way. Sometimes they are extravagantly admired for the work they do, but a large number of people are always to be found who are only too ready to find fault.

It is a great mistake for girls to join the Indian Nursing Service for the sake of the excitement of change, or in hope of more liberty and pleasure than they can meet with in English Hospital life. If they do, they will find that there are long stretches of wearisome work to be endured, that the climate is a trial, and the world is severely censorious; and it is a world where everyone knows all their neighbour's doings, and their sayings too, almost before they are uttered.

What is wanted are gentlewomen in every sense of the word. In the social sense first of all, for something more than a hardworking Nurse is required to be able to maintain her position in working with and in nursing the British soldier, and those who have not an unquestionable social position are not suited either for the work, or the society into which they are admitted when they join the Service; they will be out of their element, and it will be hard both on themselves and on their colleagues.

Secondly, we require gentlewomen who are devoted first and foremost to their work—who care for Nursing for its own sake and for their patients' sakes, and who are content to live quietly and unostentatiously, without parading their independence, or craving for gaiety and excitement. Such women will gain the affection of their colleagues, and the confidence and respect of their medical officers and of society generally. They will find much to enjoy both in their work and in the life in India, and they will gain honour for our profession, by helping to prove that the Government was right in believing that it was through the agency of women that the nursing in our Indian military Hospitals could best be raised to a higher and more efficient level.

Let those who come out put their shoulder to the wheel in an earnest spirit, and remember that their individual work and their individual conduct out here have direct and immense influence either to forward or to retard the cause

of Nursing in a country where, till very recently, it was practically unknown.

#### DISCUSSION.

Miss Beresford, late of the Indian Army Nursing Service, said, so far as the nursing of the soldiers' wives was concerned, they should certainly have trained assistance, but she thought women in the Army were looked upon more or less as luxuries, and on this account perhaps the provision for nursing them was not everything that could be desired.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said, as Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, when the India Office decided to appoint Army Sisters for pioneer work in India, it fell to her to recommend seven Sisters, and she had been in communication with some of these ladies from time to time ever since. It appeared to her that the Army Medical Service had recognised the need of Army Nursing reform, which was being pushed forward more actively in India than at home. Since 1888 great strides had been made in the Indian Army Nursing Service, which was not organised there on the same lines as at home. In India, where domestic and social conditions differed so much from those in this country, a very different system of organisation was needed. The audience would have gathered from her paper that reform in the nursing and transport of sick soldiers was necessary, and that there was urgent need for an increase of Nursing Sisters and a lengthened period of instruction for Hospital orderlies. She thought many thanks were due to Miss Loch for the valuable paper, containing, as it did, so much that was of interest on a subject about which it was extremely difficult to get any information. She thought the new Commander-in-Chief of the Army—who was said to hold progressive views on the care of the sick and wounded soldiers—should be approached by the Medical Officers and Superintendent Sisters, who were in a much better position than anyone else, to suggest reform and improvement. Added to which the suggestion would come better from them than through public or newspaper sources. Reform should come from *within* rather than from without in all systems, as such reforms were effected better through expressed needs than from contentious agitation on the part of the public, and she thought most probably this would be the means by which Army Nursing Reform would be effected.

Several ladies present spoke to the necessity for more trained care of our soldiers, their wives and children.

Votes of thanks were accorded to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Loch, Miss Hislop, and the Chairman, Miss M. Huxley.

**The "MRS. EVALINE"**  
**HEALTH TOWELETTES**  
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