

iron posts, with iron trusses, covered with Mangalore tiles placed on wooden ribs. In its construction all the four sides of each shed have been left open; but now that the place is used as a fever hospital some loose *khapētās* are arranged on sides which afford but poor protection to the patients against the disagreeable cold north-easterly blast which blows every morning and evening during this season. In the absence of doors and windows, some *khapētās* on the sides are removed here and there to form them, which gaps give direct draught to certain patients right over their beds. Throughout the length of the shed there is a ridge ventilation in the middle, about a couple of feet higher than the main roof, but as the open sides of the ridge ventilation are not covered with venetians, the cold wind in the early morning makes the sick people there miserable. Again, there is no wooden planking under the tiles, so the crevices between them, with here and there a tile broken, make the inmates shiver with cold on a dewy morning. There is no *pucca* flooring, of *koba* or stone. It was a despicable mud flooring which I should be ashamed to see in my stables for horses or cattle."

"Under such an inhospitable roof there lay about 120 patients, men, women, and children, suffering from bubonic fever, treated by Dr. Underwood, whom alone I saw there on duty at the time of my visit, with a European assistant. All the patients were crowded together in the two out of the three sheds. The third one was left entirely vacant. From an inquiry I learnt the cause of keeping the third shed vacant. No ward boys were available to look after patients if left in third shed, so they were all crowded in the two sheds for the mere convenience of the ward boys, and consequently in some cases between the beds of two patients there was hardly two feet of space. There were only six ward boys."

Later accounts are somewhat more hopeful. Miss Edith Atkinson, M.R.B.N.A., matron of the Kama Hospital, is now working as a voluntary nurse in the Arthur Road Hospital, with six other nursing Sisters, and the Executive Engineer to the Municipality has carried out several extensions and improvements in the hospital.

The Lady Superior of the Bandora Convent having consented to lend four Sisters as nurses, their services will be utilised by the Health Department in a hospital at Cammateepoora.

The Sisters of the All Saints' Community still continue their untiring and devoted labours amongst the plague-stricken to the admiration of the whole community.

Dr. Yersin has arrived in Bombay from Saigon, bringing a quantity of anti-plague serum.

From "A Barrister-at-Law," who has spent 39 years in India, we have received a sympathetic letter in answer to our communication to the press that more thoroughly-trained nurses were required for the plague in India, he

writes:—"Please show what good has been done, and could be done by specially selected nurses, and also the need there is of them, for intelligent, devoted nursing, where ward boys (native attendants) are apt to give trouble. My long experience of India convinces me that the danger of contagion is very small, with proper precautions, to nurses of strong, healthy constitutions." He continues:—

"The heroic conduct of English nurses at the Bombay hospitals, the eagerness with which they volunteer for attendance upon plague patients is a noble record of woman's devotion. Nurse Joyce, of St. George's Hospital, Bombay, has succumbed on the field of duty. Nurses Dwyer, Nerroy, Grevers, Winckler, Searl, Hunt and Hughes are continuing in their mission of mercy. Nurse Hughes has been for about twenty years in the hospital, and for the last five years in the infectious diseases ward, sometimes for eight months at a stretch, without rest. Her last spell in the plague ward was from December 23rd to January 26th - or thirty-six days' duty from 7 a.m. till 8 p.m.

It is in contemplation to erect a fitting memorial on the grave of Nurse Joyce, but for those who persevere in the good work some recognition of their services should be devised at the end of the plague campaign. Nurse Hughes and her companions would be worthy recipients of the Queen's Medal."

This is early days to think of rewards—it is enough that we nurses are privileged to do the work.

## Nursing Comforts for the Sick.

OUR suggestion which appeared in the press on February 25th, that an effort should be made by the nation to organise and send to India trained nurses—for the plague—having become unnecessary, owing to the subsequent action of the Government in promptly despatching nurses to Bombay, we propose that the interest shown by the public in the question of the care of the sick should be directed to providing them with nursing comforts. A representative Committee is being formed in London to organise the scheme, and we are glad to announce that it has already received some financial support. We nurses know well how difficult it is, even in many well-equipped English hospitals, to obtain for use efficient supply of the most comfortable and scientific nursing appliances; and we can readily understand how difficult it will be to procure such aid to the well-being of the sick, in emergency hospitals in Bombay. The advice of a Sister, who has been working in the plague hospitals, will be available in a few days, as she will arrive in London from India; and it is proposed that she shall be consulted concerning the details of the scheme.

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