

Eurasian nurses find it difficult to obtain work in the land of their adoption, every effort to utilize their services in the country ought strenuously to be made, and with this important economic phase of the question before the military and civil authorities of India, we protest against there being any semblance of justice or necessity pleaded for the increasing yearly importation of nurses from England to fill the highly-salaried appointments of the Indian Nursing Service of the British Army, and we say that an act of justice would be done to our domiciled countrywomen, by opening the portals of the Indian Nursing Service for their admission and enrolment. This measure of justice is demanded as much in the interests of economy with a dwindling exchequer, as in defence of the just and righteous expectation of the domiciled community, to obtain the remunerative work which is to be found in the land which is both their birth-place and their home. To our mind the importation of a supplanting element into the labour market is one of the cruellest and most damning blots upon the administration of this country by the British Indian Government, and demands the outspoken condemnation of the whole domiciled Indo-European community; for we find in such policy the great factor which causes and perpetuates the poverty of this community. In this question of the legitimate employment of nurses in this country to fill vacancies in a service for which they are fully qualified, but from which they are excluded and debarred by the absolutely unnecessary and extremely costly importation of nurses from England, we find an instance which clearly illustrates the cause of the existence of the so-called "Poor White Problem," and the poverty, distress, and degeneration of the descendants of Britons in this land. Here, then, is a well-grounded argument, and clearly pointed illustration to serve the purposes of a united protest and appeal from the various Anglo-Indian Political Associations of the country.

"With this digression we would revert to the difficulties that nurses realize in obtaining work in our large cities, and we would ask how can their condition be relieved and their position improved, in order that they may find a fairly assured livelihood. We would answer these questions by the following suggestions:—

"(1.) Control and regulate the out turn of nurses by lengthening the period of tuition from one to two years' hospital training, and by demanding from candidates some small degree of preliminary education, say the sixth standard of the Government Educational Code, or some such equivalent.

"(2.) To form an Association for nurses, and insist upon their being registered. Each large city might have its own register, with a small office to which the public could apply for the services of a nurse,

the register being faithfully over-run, so that each nurse might have a fair and reasonable occupation of her time. In order to avoid injustice or to disparage women who, though not duly trained and qualified, are at present practising as nurses, these should all in the first instance be included in the register; subsequent registration depending upon a certificate of qualification.

"(3.) Should funds be forthcoming for the purpose, it would be most desirable to organize Residential Homes in various centres of our large cities, where a number of nurses could live together with rooms at moderate rentals. Such measures would not only offer protection and convenience to the public in time of real need, but would aid in the bettering of the social condition and comfort of a hard-working, useful, and very deserving class of public servants."

We are entirely in sympathy with our contemporary in thinking that, provided the nurses of the country are fully qualified, they should take precedence with regard to Indian appointments, of importations from England. But we desire to point out that if the Indian nurses are only trained, as is stated in this article, for twelve months, that they are unqualified for nursing appointments in the Indian Army Nursing Service. We quote from the official regulations: "Candidates must have had three years' training and service combined in general hospitals, and be between twenty-five and thirty-five at date of appointment. They must submit a recommendation from a lady in society to the effect that they are desirable persons to enter a service composed of ladies of good social position." Nurses who have not had three years' hospital training are, therefore, ineligible, and, with regard to the second qualification demanded by the Government, we think that the degree of education attained in order to pass "the sixth standard of the Government Education Code, or some such equivalent," would scarcely suffice. Until the Indian Hospitals therefore adopt a higher standard of training, it is necessary that English nurses should be employed.

Our contemporary calls attention to the needs of the nurses, but nurses exist for the benefit of their patients, and the patients must undoubtedly be considered before the nurses. When the three years' system of training under fully qualified superintendents is adopted in India, then, and not till then, can Indian nurses compete with those who have undergone this period of training at home.

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