

Nursing the Plague.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN has cabled a gracious message to Lord Sandhurst, Governor of Bombay, in which she expresses deep regret at the sad news of the death from plague of Nurse Morgan, and extends her earnest sympathy to all those who must suffer from the loss of the lamented nurse's services.

ALMOST crossing the Queen's message came the sad news from India of the death of Miss Harriet McDougall, another victim to the plague, who left England on plague duty on the 25th November last, and who contracted the malady in a singular manner. It is reported that a patient was seized with a fit of coughing as the sister bent over his bed, and some particles of the contagious disease entered her eye.

MISS HARRIET McDOUGALL, who died on Tuesday, 22nd ult., was buried on the evening of the following day at the beautiful Senree Cemetery, Bombay. The funeral was a public one, in recognition of her services, rendered at a time of special exigency. Many persons testified their respect by attending the funeral.

MUCH grief is felt at the news of her death amongst Miss McDougall's old colleagues at St. Bartholomew's, where she was trained from 1893 to 1896, in the October of which year she was awarded her Certificate and the Gold Medal of her year, and where she worked as staff nurse until selected for service in India a year later. Miss McDougall was one of the first volunteers to nurse the plague in the spring of last year. We were much impressed with her beauty, her brightness, and brain power. Her death, the happiest of deaths—at the post of duty—will be deeply mourned.

In the House of Lords, last week, Lord Reay inquired of the Secretary of State for India whether the hospital accommodation and staff of nurses and doctors employed to cope with the plague is adequate to the requirements. The Earl of Onslow replied that the hospitals are well organized, and the supply of doctors and nurses sufficient, reinforcements being sent from home at two or three days' notice, whenever asked for. He further stated that in all fifty-nine men and women doctors, and sixty-one nurses, had been sent out, ten more doctors having left for India that week. He also announced, with deep regret, the deaths of Miss Morgan and Miss McDougall of plague, during the performance of their duties.

SEVERAL of the nursing sisters who went to India on plague duty this time last year, have been

requested to serve for a second year, and this they have consented to do, so that we shall not have the pleasure of welcoming them home just yet awhile. Duty bids them remain at their posts, owing to the great increase of plague in Bombay; and when one realizes that, in hospitals alone, there are over one thousand patients, it is very certain that the sisters' services are in urgent request.

MANY of the sisters are still working in the country districts where at present there is no epidemic, but where one village after another gets infected, in spite of most rigorous measures to prevent the spread of infection. A village becomes infected, the people are at once turned out into one camp, with chowkidars at each corner to prevent egress. The tiles are stripped off the houses, so as to freely admit sun and air; the houses are then whitewashed; then should more cases of plague occur, the chapras are burnt down, the patients removed to hospital, and all their friends taken to the hospital observation camp, where they are treated as "contacts" for six days, after which time, if they are well, they may return to their chapras. How hard this is on the very poor can be estimated.

AN Indian friend writes:—"Seeing all the hardships of the people, particularly the low castes, you will readily believe that the money you were good enough to collect and send, has been of the very greatest service. Subjoined you will find an account of how most of it has been spent. There is still some 25 rupees left, which is rapidly diminishing."

"WHAT will you think when I ask if we could get some more money for these very poor? How grateful we should be—and they, poor things, to whom it is given—I cannot tell you. The hardships to these poor people, who depend on their daily labour to produce the daily bread, are great, now that they are not allowed to move from one place to another; or in case any member of their family has plague, they are taken into quarantine, and their chapras burnt. Their troubles are really greater now than during the epidemic, when cordons and quarantine were not established."

THE little fund was distributed as follows, through the kind help of the nursing sisters, who come into such intimate relations with the sufferers. We will gladly receive and forward any money sent to us for this purpose.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK'S FUND FOR POOR PLAGUE PATIENTS.

By Miss A. Jones— R. A.
To poor Mahomedan family for eggs and
flour while mother was in hospital three
months, at 2 annas daily 9 8

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