

the hope that other nurses may do the same. There are many nurses who habitually save something during Lent; and twopence a day, or a shilling a week, would, at the end of the six weeks of Lent, amount to a sum which would provide a poor Hindu with food for weeks. If you approve of the suggestion perhaps you would give publicity to it in the NURSING RECORD.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
A REGULAR READER.

A Golden Opportunity.

ALWAYS on the alert where practical good work is to be effected, the Countess of Aberdeen, as the wife of the Governor-General of Canada, is organizing a nursing expedition to Klondyke.

We are told of the thousands who are now daily arriving at Dyea and Skagway to await the opening of the rivers, and of the character of the country and of the conditions which must necessarily surround the miners and other travellers, and the sad fate of those who are overtaken by accident or illness. We are shown how the summer must of necessity bring with it epidemics and fevers, owing to the swampy character of the ground around Dawson City and elsewhere, the lack of drainage, and the malaria arising from the large number of dead horses which have perished by the way.

The missionaries and mounted police, and others who have been stationed in the district, earnestly advise that some trained nurses should be sent forward without delay, and the Victorian Order of District Nurses, established to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty, in Canada, have decided to respond to the appeal.

This order is, however, only now in the infancy of its own work, and its training homes at Ottawa, Montreal, and Toronto, and elsewhere, are but at the outset of their mission.

Lady Aberdeen writes:—"We must therefore open a special fund for furnishing our Klondyke expedition, which is to consist, to begin with, of a lady superintendent and three district nurses. The salary of the superintendent has been fixed at the rate of £120 a year; and that of each of the nurses at £100. The outfits, the year's supply of provisions, the medical appliances and drugs, will not come to much less than £250 for each of the party. We are, therefore, desirous of raising a fund of £1500, and I venture to appeal to those who are anxiously watching the outcome of this great development in British Columbia and the far North-West, and especially do I appeal to those whose friends are amongst the pioneers. A number of medical men are already on the spot, but up to now they have had no trained nurses to assist them, and it is needless for me to point out the wonderful relief and comfort that competent and devoted women will be able to bring to sufferers under such circumstances. We have

suitable fully-trained nurses already in view, women who look upon this call as a great opportunity which but rarely falls to the lot of nurses save in times of war. They will be found ready to face all the hardships before them, and we are only waiting for the means to send them forward. Whilst waiting for the rivers to open, they will find much to do amongst the thousands who are congregating at Skagway and elsewhere. I ought to add that the Dominion Government, who are striving so earnestly to cope with the difficulties they are called on to meet in these regions, are interesting themselves very heartily in this project, and will arrange to convey nurses sent by the Victorian Order free of cost to their posts, and will also furnish them with tents and other facilities."

Contributions to this good work can be sent direct to the Countess of Aberdeen, Government House, Ottawa; or will be received by Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, High Commissioner for Canada, 17, Victoria Street, S.W. We should much like to conduct such an expedition, but fear charming English nurses would soon be "annexed."

Strangers' Hospital, Rio Janeiro.

IN the annual report of the Strangers' Hospital, Rio de Janeiro, which is before us, we notice that, following the good American fashion, Miss Annie Jackson, the Matron, writes the report of her own department. We hope this is a foreshadowing of what we may expect in the reports of English hospitals in the future. From Miss Jackson's report, we learn that from June to October, 1896, the staff consisted of three members—a matron and two nurses—of whom one nurse had resigned, and was to leave on the arrival of the other nurses from England. From October, 1896, to the present time, the staff has consisted of a matron and six nurses. There has been a greater demand for nurses for outside cases than in previous years. Twelve cases have been nursed in their own homes, and, in addition to this, it has been possible to allow three nurses to undertake cases outside Rio.

The report of the Acting President further states that the Nursing Staff gives complete satisfaction to any and to all subscribers to the Strangers' Hospital who may demand their services. This is, we feel sure, a well-merited appreciation of the work of Miss Jackson and her nurses.

Vacant Appointment.

WE call the attention of our readers to the vacancy which is this week announced, in the post of Matron at the Birmingham General Hospital, one of the most important provincial institutions. We regret to learn that it is about to lose the very valuable services of Miss Zara Stevenson, who has done such excellent work for its Nursing department.

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