

most infelicitous line: "The weary to sleep and the wounded to die." The quotation, in itself is sufficient to demonstrate that the article in question is from a male pen, a woman would refuse to believe that the wounded would do anything but get better, and by her belief would contribute largely to this result.

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SPEAKING of the nursing arrangements of the Field Hospitals the writer says, that he "yields to none in his admiration for the lady nurses of the army, God bless them, but in giving them their full need of praise, do not let us forget the little chap of the Medical Staff Corps, who has the *hard* work to do at the front, for lady nurses with the fighting force exist only in the imagination of lady novelists."

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We may say at once that the position of pampered safety is one which nurses refuse to accept. The Nursing Sisters are part of the Army Service; and as such claim their right to be with the Army, wherever nursing services are required. In the field hospitals, on the transport boats, and at the base hospitals. Although the war correspondents have been compelled in the recent Soudan campaign to travel with leprous negroes, adequate transport arrangements have been made for the officers, and if for them, why not for the Nursing Sisters? At any rate, whether the transports are comfortable or no we feel sure that the Army Sisters, to a woman, are with us when we say that the last thing they desire is to be kept in glass cases labelled "safety."

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We regret to learn that Mr. Cross, the correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* in the Soudan, died at Abadia, of enteric fever, on the 20th ult. The sick and wounded are now arriving in Cairo, and will, no doubt, be well cared for.

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THE *Indian Medical Record* is taking up the cudgels in defence of the Anglo-Indian Nurse, and asserts that injustice is done her by the importation of British Nurses for plague duty. We are quite of opinion that if Indian trained nurses are to be found in sufficient numbers, well qualified to undertake the work of plague nursing, their claims to appointment deserve every consideration, but, as a matter of fact, the lack of efficient nursing, and the condition of the plague hospitals before English nurses bravely went, at the risk of their lives, to give skilled assistance to the plague stricken patients is notorious.

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Our contemporary states that both doctors and nurses could be procured in India in any number required. We may reasonably enquire, therefore,

why they were *not* required. Mr. James Cantlie, in an article in [the *British Medical Journal* in February of last year, stated that "in no disease does one get such immediate results from careful and prompt medical treatment, and as a direct outcome of watchful nursing, as in plague," that each two patients required an attendant to themselves if the utmost good was to be done, and that "a liberal supply of doctors and nurses was essential if the lives of the plague-stricken were to be saved." Were nurses in anything like this proportion provided for the plague patients?

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ON the 10th of January, last year, one of the All Saints' Sisters, who did such excellent work in the plague hospitals, wrote—"All this afternoon Sister and I have been going from bed to bed, trying to quiet delirious patients. We have not got a proper staff of nurses at present, so that the work is rather heavy, but we seem to have extra strength given us for the work. It is such joy to see the relief of the friends of the sick at our coming. They say it has so reassured them that Europeans will come and nurse them. The Parsee priests, who have relations here, are most nice to us, and say they wish they could rouse their people to do the same." Space prevents our quoting extracts from the articles which we published last year concerning the condition of the plague hospitals. We refer our readers to these, and we think they will have little doubt as to the need of nurses. The single fact that in one plague hospital, at least, delirious men and women were placed indiscriminately in the same wards, with no attempt at privacy or decency illustrates the truism that local arrangements were capable of improvement.

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IN the face of the published facts as to the condition of the plague hospitals, it is difficult to accept the statement of the Board of the Anglo-Indian Association, that "the importation of British medical and nursing labor for plague duties was absolutely unnecessary." If indeed this was the case, then the condition of the plague hospitals was, if possible, even more disgraceful than we reported.

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It is reported by our contemporary that two English nurses sent out to Calcutta, for plague duty "with all the bloom of their English complexions, were hastily sent on to Darjeeling, to summer there, as it was feared they might lose their health and their lovely complexions. These nurses are on the "employed list," and yet are utterly unemployed." This statement, if substantiated, proves, not that nurses are not required, but the importance of selecting the right stamp of woman.

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