

be considered complete without there being attached to it one or more nurses who should be available for outside private cases. At present the Government Hospital at Hong Kong is the only Government Hospital which makes this provision.

It is proposed to start a special fund to maintain a Matron and two nurses at Sierra Leone.

An important part of the work of the Association is that the Colonial Office calls upon its Committee to make all the necessary arrangements with regard to the selection of, and provision for, Matrons and nurses in Government Hospitals. Seven Matrons and eleven nurses have been supplied, in this way, to various Colonies in the last eighteen months. We are extremely glad to notice this provision, because—although as the Committee of Management undertakes this duty, we should be glad to see the name of some lady of position in the nursing world amongst its members—it proves that the Secretary of State recognises the important principle that the selection of women for appointments cannot satisfactorily be made by an exclusively male committee. We should like to see this principle recognised and carried out by all Governmental departments which deal with the selection of women for appointments.

Sir Charles Gage Brown said that he had been associated with the Association from its commencement, having been the President of a commission to enquire into the question of whether the Colonial office should be in touch with the Association. He found that the scheme proposed by Mrs. Piggott met the requirements of the Colonies, and he proposed that the scheme should be supported. Mrs. Piggott had met with many difficulties in launching her scheme satisfactorily, but, with the change of government in 1895, she bethought herself of Mrs. Chamberlain, the *alter ego* of the Secretary of State. The aims of the Association were thus laid before Mr. Chamberlain, who realized their practical utility, and gave his support, and the Association was launched upon its career.

Miss Mary Kingsley, who was warmly applauded, said that it was difficult to realize the great need of nurses in unhealthy countries, but once realized she did not think this country would rest until it had supplied that need. She might perhaps be excused if she confined her remarks to West Africa. She was aware that West Africa was not all the world, but it was all the world to her, and it was unfortunately true with regard to the Bight of Benin, "that for one that comes out there are four who stay in." She would like to point out that these were men whose lives were worth saving. They were the heroes of commerce these west coast traders. They were soldiers of the empire just as much as those who fought for her in red war. Many lives need not be lost which were lost. What was wanting was scientific nursing. Nurses on the west coast could

do a grand work. She had often heard a medical man say—"If I had had a good nurse I could have saved that man." Hospital accommodation was needed, and for this the Crown Colony system offered no support. She was not a great admirer of the Crown Colony system, but she hoped that under Mr. Chamberlain this slur might be removed. She would like before concluding to express her admiration for Dr. Patrick Manson, who had done, and was doing, so much to fight death with science, and for Mr. A. L. Jones, who had, by means of his steamers, afforded many sufferers from malaria that best of chances the opportunity of putting out to sea, and had also supplied the sick with ice, two of the greatest services which could be rendered to them.

Mr. A. L. Jones (Liverpool) said that English people abroad did a great deal for the comfort of those at home. Her foreign commerce was the strength of the nation, and it would be ungrateful not to support this movement for helping their fellow countrymen in sickness. Nursing was quite as essential as medical help. However, it was no use saying these things without giving practical help, and, therefore, he would be very pleased to give an annual subscription of half the sum required, namely £50. Perhaps he might be allowed to say he should like it, if possible, to be devoted to West African interests. He believed England had an enormous future there.

Dr. Chalmers spoke of the good work done by the nurses in West Africa. As medical officer on the Gold Coast, he had had opportunities of observing their work which was extraordinary. They nursed not only government officials, but traders and natives, and if it had not been for them, there would have been many more deaths on the Gold Coast than there have been. They worked night and day, and no work at home was ever better done than theirs had been.

Sir Charles Mitchell, upon being called upon from the chair said that "this wasn't in the bill." He ought to have been battling with the gales in the Channel, on his way back to his Colony, and he would have been, but that at the last moment he had arranged to go back via Marseilles. He sympathised with the good work the Society was doing. There were Crown Colonies and Crown Colonies. In the Straits Settlements there were hospitals containing 5,000 beds. They had trained nurses, but they also have Roman Catholic Sisters, who were very valuable, because there was no danger of their being affected by one disease, against which the Society had not made provision. He referred to matrimony. He was afraid that the excessively attractive ladies sent out under the auspices of the Association would prove so attractive to the small male white population that their services would be lost to the Association. He saw in the rules

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