

posed the committee and officers of the Home for the ensuing year. He said "he was pleased to see by reference to the committee of last year that there had been no vacancy occasioned during the year either by death or resignation. He thought it was also matter for congratulation that there should be found on the list the names of so many ladies. The working of the Home was women's work, and he believed that the fortunes of the institution might be very safely left in the hands of the energetic and charitable ladies included in the list. Perhaps the most remarkable thing in connection with the growth of medical science and the laws of health had been the development of the nursing system. The bibulous, slovenly, and ignorant person who 25 years ago masqueraded in the garb of a nurse had ceased to exist, and her place had been taken by the kind, gentle, and skilful ladies who had now acquired, by careful training, the qualifications essential for such a profession. Perhaps it was they that had caused the change in the healing art, or perhaps it was the change in the healing art that had caused their appearance. However, that might be, at any rate, nowadays their physicians were resorting less and less every day to what had sometimes been termed the "kill-or-cure" system, and they were more disposed to assist the healing power of nature with a staff of well-trained and efficient nurses." The Presidents of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons also bore witness to the good work done by the Home, and a most successful meeting was brought to a conclusion after the Benediction had been pronounced by the Archbishop.

It is frequently supposed that nurses who are not up to the required standard at home are suited for work abroad, but, as a matter of fact, it is the cream of the nursing profession which is needed in foreign countries, and even nurses who do well at home fail utterly in a strange country, where every quality they possess is put to the test, and such as are lacking are painfully conspicuous by their absence.

FIRST there must be a power of adaptability to new surroundings, and consideration for those amongst whom they work, and respect for their traditions. Nurses are apt to forget that if an African or a Laplander were to come to this country, and wish to make us adopt their customs that we might not consider immediately such ways were an improvement on our own, and, with the best of intentions, it is unwise to force on unwilling natives, customs which we consider, and rightly, better than theirs, and to treat as insubordination and bad behaviour, a disinclination to carry out an order which probably arises from such an order being directly contrary to the custom of the country, or from its being entirely

misunderstood, owing to the imperfect knowledge of the language which she was speaking, on the part of the person giving the order. In all cases time and patience are needed, and when once natives have learnt to trust an individual and to believe in her goodwill towards them, they are often touchingly trustful and loyal.

A WANT of knowledge of the language spoken often gives rise to serious difficulties, and, facility in acquiring foreign languages must be counted as a most desirable if not necessary accomplishment for a nurse going abroad. We remember hearing a Belgian servant reprimanded for failing to carry out an order to take "a little warm l'eau" upstairs, and further afield, a nurse was seriously annoyed because a native servant refused to carry out her instructions, which she thought were to empty her bath water, but which actually were to throw away the bath.

It is related of another nurse that she wished to make friendly advances to a native medicine man, and in the best language she could command said to him, as she thought: "I hear you are a great doctor—so am I." Her remark did not seem to be altogether acceptable, and ultimately she discovered that what she had actually said was: "I hear you are a great cheat—so am I."

BUT the difficulty is intensified when the nurse, as not infrequently happens, finds herself at an up-country station many miles from a doctor. All sorts of cases are brought to her for treatment, often of extreme gravity, and she has to do the best she can. A nurse stationed at Magila, in German East Africa, relates that on one occasion she was called down to see a man who had been brought to the station, who was found to have had one leg entirely taken off by the fall of a large piece of timber on the previous day. The man was dying fast, and nothing could be done for him, but it will be seen that a nurse who is liable to have to treat cases of this description needs to be of the very best.

It may be asked: Why was there no doctor? and the answer is that a doctor, on the staff of the Universities Mission, was stationed there for many years, and ultimately died at his post. He was loved and trusted by the natives, and the good he did was great; but since his death, though appeals have been made for some one to take his place, no one has so far volunteered, and the nurses sometimes two, often one, work on bravely, doing the best they can, and hoping that some one will respond to the need, well knowing that the responsibilities of the position are greater than they ought to assume, and often breaking down under them.

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