

Cheltenham, which appointment she recently resigned, in order to join the Universities Mission to Central Africa.

MISS RAM, who has, until lately, held the position of Night Superintendent at Monsall Fever Hospital, Manchester, also resigned her appointment to take up her work in Central Africa, and will shortly leave England for that purpose. She will probably be stationed at the Hospital in Zanzibar.

For Valour.

ROYAL RED CROSS.

THE Queen has been pleased to confer the decoration of the Royal Red Cross upon the under-mentioned ladies:—

Miss Catherine Sarah Mowbray, late Indian Nursing Service;

Miss Mary Ellen Barker, Indian Nursing Service;

Miss Theresa McGrath;

in recognition of the services rendered by them in nursing the sick and wounded during the late operations on the Punjab Frontier. Also upon:—

Miss Sarah Lucy Wilshaw, Army Nursing Service;

Miss Mary Ellen Harper, Army Nursing Service; for similar services in Egypt.

VICTORIA CROSS.

FOR NORTH-WEST FRONTIER SERVICE.

THE "Gazette" contains an announcement of her Majesty's intention to confer the Victoria Cross on the under-mentioned non-commissioned officer for the act of courage described: "Corporal James Smith, Buffs, East Kent Regiment. On the night of September 16-17, 1897, Corporal Smith, with a party of the Buffs, responded to Lieutenant Watson's call for volunteers, and followed that officer into the burning village of Bilot, driving off the enemy with the bayonet.

"Afterwards, although wounded, he continued firing steadily and coolly, and also helped to carry the wounded to the place prepared for them.

"When Lieutenant Watson left, in order to fetch assistance for the wounded, Corporal Smith held the position till that officer's return, exposing his life freely in watching the enemy and directing the fire of his men."

The following privates of the Buffs receive the medal for Distinguished Conduct in the Field for their share in the night's work: James Lever, H. Nelthorpe, C. Poile, and F. Finn.

Maternity Charities.

A CORRESPONDENT who is contemplating starting a District Maternity Charity recently wrote to us for information concerning the best methods of arranging such a charity. We think, therefore, that others of our readers may be glad of information on the same question.

The first point to be decided is whether a Home shall be established for in-patients, or whether district work only shall be undertaken. It must be realized that the maintenance of an in-patient department is costly, and will need to be supported in part by charitable subscriptions; but there are great advantages in having, at least, a small in-patient department. They may be summed up as follows:—

(1) All first cases attended can be required to become in-patients, as well as patients who have a bad history as regards previous confinements, such as eclampsia, craniotomy, placenta prævia, and so on. It is much safer that such cases should be kept constantly under observation.

(2) Pupil monthly nurses and midwives can be taught their work in the home before going out on the district. The training so given is more thorough than is possible in district work, and also will fit them better for private nursing subsequently.

Another point to be decided is the class of women who shall be received as patients. Whether married patients only, or unmarried also shall be admitted. If both classes of patients are considered eligible for admission, they should be kept distinct. It is, of course, essential that one or more medical practitioners should be attached to the Home. Under their supervision a large amount of the work can be performed by midwives, who should, in every case, be trained nurses.

The Home will probably consist of ordinary dwelling houses, which have been adapted for the purpose. This, while making more work, is not wholly a disadvantage, as the size of the rooms will not admit of more than one or two patients being in one room, and this rule should always be adopted in a Maternity Home.

The Superintendent of the Home should be a skilled nurse and midwife, and there should also be on duty in the house two certificated midwives who will take night and day duty alternating, and whose duty it will be to see that the details of the house nursing are properly carried out, and to teach the pupils. As to the admission of patients, and their payments, this should be arranged by the Superintendent, who should be at home to see intending patients on two mornings in the week. In this way she can learn their previous history, can receive their payments in small weekly sums, and inspect their marriages certificates.

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