

expert knowledge they do not possess, open home hospitals, and receive patients for the most serious operations and treatment. But the public will naturally ask: "Where do the patients come from? What physicians or surgeons realise their responsibility to their patients so little that they recommend them to enter these so-called 'home hospitals'?" And they may well express astonishment that at the end of the nineteenth century in London the true value of skilled nursing is so little estimated that by the patronage of members of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, these places are made remunerative to the untrained proprietors.

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In an article headed "The Private Hospital Deception" a whilom patient and sufferer from the system has some very plain home truths to say on this important question, and we could hope that the medical press will spare time and space to enquire into and tackle the question. It is a service to the public that should not be left entirely to the lay press.

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In a lecture lately delivered by Major Ronald Ross to the nursing staff at the Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool, he said that nursing in the tropics was essentially very different from nursing in this country. In the tropics they had quite a separate set of diseases to deal with, of which they could have no experience here. Then they could not know anything about the hospitals in the tropics; neither could they be acquainted with the manner of nursing the natives, and lastly—and perhaps most important of all—they did not know how to keep themselves in health abroad. On all these points it was desirable that nurses should have the fullest information, and the new Tropical School founded in Liverpool would endeavour to impart such instruction. It was very patriotic on the part of Liverpool to have inaugurated such a school, because for many years doctors in the tropics had wished for some central institution in England where they could study tropical diseases, and teach regarding them. We had an enormous empire all over the world, but up till recently we had done little or nothing to investigate tropical diseases. He could assure them that so far as the tropics were concerned, the subject of nursing had been very much neglected; in fact, there were many hospitals in India, for instance, with no nurses at all.

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MAJOR ROSS afterwards proceeded to point out in detail the great difference in the character of the diseases met with in the tropics compared with those they had to deal with at home, remarking that malaria was by far the most prevalent tropical disease. He mentioned that in

India the mortality from that disease alone amounted to about ten thousand people a day, or as many as were supposed to have been killed at the famous battle of Omdurman. After dealing with some other of the more familiar diseases met with in the tropics, the Major touched on the difficulty of dealing with native patients, pointing out that considerable trouble was apt to arise owing to caste prejudice. He also imparted much valuable information to the nurses on the subject of preserving their personal health in tropical climates. The course of instruction which would be given in the Liverpool Tropical School was not only intended for nurses, but he hoped it might be also of benefit to planters and missionaries, both male and female, who were going out to do work in the tropics. We boasted a good deal about our Empire, and certainly we had done great work in connection with it, but he thought that the unbounded charity which was manifested by the English people at home might do a little more for the poor natives than had yet been attempted. We were careful about our fiscal arrangements, and our army and so on, but he was afraid we did not pay enough attention to the prevention and treatment of diseases among the native races within the Empire.

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THE Liverpool School of Tropical Diseases has offered to give to three nurses, intended for service in the tropics in connection with the Colonial Nursing Association, a special training at the expense of the School. The offer has been accepted. It is interesting to know that the special ward at the Royal Southern Hospital set apart for the clinical instruction of the school has been full to overflowing ever since it was opened with typical cases of malaria and other tropical diseases.

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WHEN the Liverpool school was opened, a special ward was set apart for clinical instruction in the Royal Infirmary, and it has ever since been full of patients presenting typical cases. Nurses intended for service in the tropics are now being instructed as well as medical students, and thus there is every chance that in the course of a few years we shall know more about this class of diseases, which cost so many thousands of British lives every year.

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THE Hospital Committee of the Bolton Board of Guardians lately recommended that a substantial increase of salary should be offered to the trained nurse required to act as Superintendent from £52 to £80 a year, wisely realising that the wear and tear of the position was extreme, and that to secure the services of an able woman the labourer was worthy of his hire. We regret to observe

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