

would find some poor sufferers relieved of their anguish. Once she roused a Mehta to take away the bodies with the assistance of the ward boy. At first the man refused to perform this necessary office, then made excuses, saying there was no more room in the mortuary. The determined nurse then said, "Show me the mortuary," and splashing through the rain the journey began, first she was intentionally misguided, right away across the compounds to a wrong bungalow, back again in another wrong direction, and finally landed at the right place. Then to make the discovery that seven bodies were so placed as to take the room of twenty, and upon the refusal of the men to move them, to have to do it oneself—such circumstances in a strange land need some pluck and determination upon the part of a nurse.

One regrets the more that the difficulties of the situation have proved more than some of the nurses were able to meet, that they have failed in endurance, resource, common sense, that their British birthright of insularity has unfitted some called to be worthy of choice, and that they have failed, as all women amidst foreign surroundings fail, who have not widely educated and sympathetic knowledge of the world.

At the root of any lack of discipline, has been the primary lack of organization upon the part of the India Office, which would long since have been effected, if some of the expert Heads of Nurse Training Schools had been consulted. To send a band of trained nurses out to India with no recognised official head, meant disorganization from the out-start; and to place these nurses on active Plague Duty without a Superintendent, was like sending an army into action without a Commander-in-Chief.

E. G. F.

Colonial Nursing.

THE training of nurses for the colonies is a question which is now coming to the front, and which certainly deserves attention. Not very long since few nurses found their way to our many colonies, and fewer still received any special training in the nursing of tropical diseases. Now, a well organized effort is being made by the Colonial Nursing Association to bring the services of trained nurses within reach of the Colonies, and, as a natural sequence, suggestions are being made as to the desirability of giving to nurses who intend eventually to go abroad, an opportunity of experience in the nursing of tropical diseases at home. The idea is an excellent one, for a nurse abroad is frequently thrown to a great

extent on her own resources, and only those who have nursed patients suffering from that scourge of the tropics—malaria—know what a large amount of experience is necessary in the nursing of these critical cases. Mr. A. L. Jones, of Liverpool, who has taken such a warm interest in the Colonial Nursing Association, is anxious to establish a branch of the Association in that city, and, though we gather from a letter addressed by Mrs. Piggott, the hon. secretary of the Colonial Nursing Association, to a contemporary in that city, that the multiplication of Associations is not desired by her society; yet no doubt some conclusion will be arrived at which will further the interests of the Association in Liverpool, especially as it is proposed shortly to hold an influential public meeting on the subject in that city. It would be a happy arrangement if some of the beds at the Royal Southern Hospital which are to be utilized in connection with a medical school for the study of tropical diseases, could be also made available for the training of nurses in the same subject.

Nursing and the State.

THE Norwich Guardians are evidently in earnest in their desire to obtain the support of other Boards in petitioning the Government to institute public examinations in convenient centres for poor law nurses. At the last meeting of the Toxeth Board of Guardians the clerk, Mr. Moulding, read a circular letter from the Norwich Guardians asking the support of the Guardians in this matter. He remarked that there were certain places where nurses were turned out with only one year's training, and that they certainly could not be efficient with this experience. The Rev. J. P. Baynes was of opinion that they ought to press this important matter upon the Local Government Board. They themselves gave their nurses three years' training, with regular lectures, and they had to pass an examination before they were granted a certificate of efficiency. The clerk emphasized the mischief of sending out imperfectly trained nurses to private cases. The employers believed that they were dealing with those who had had a thorough training and, in consequence, valuable lives were placed in their care with the utmost confidence. We are glad to say that the motion was carried unanimously. Such resolutions from Boards of Guardians which afford thorough training to their nurses should have great weight with the Local Government Board.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)