

point out to the Colonial Nursing Association that the employment of French Sisters is largely a question of salaries. English nurses expect such remuneration as their skilled services command. French Sisters give their unskilled services gratuitously, and the penny wise and pound foolish policy has in some instances unfortunately prevailed. In all cases where French Sisters are employed to nurse English Government Hospitals, the Government should require the same evidence of training as it imposes in the case of British nurses. We further advise the Colonial Nursing Association to institute inquiries into the arrangements made for the night nursing of patients in these hospitals. Is an efficient nursing staff provided at night, or are seriously ill, and even delirious, patients left with a native boy asleep on the floor, and expected to wake him if they need any assistance? Further, have any fatalities occurred as a result of this plan? They would also do well to inquire whether any provision is made by the Imperial Government for the care of sick and inpecunious British subjects in our Colonies, or if these persons are dependent solely on such charity as may be available.

THE BLIND LEADING THE BLIND.

THE Indian press has commented considerably on the point at issue between Sir Frederic Fryer the Lieutenant Governor of Burma, and the Committee of the Dufferin Maternity Hospital at Rangoon, and last week *Truth* had a paragraph on the vexed topic. Sir Frederic Fryer recently threatened to withdraw the Government grant, as well as the municipal grant to the hospital, unless the managers complied with his wishes and appointed as Superintendent, and resident doctor, a lady, who in the opinion of the Committee, was disqualified for an important branch of her work—the training of native women in midwifery and nursing—by her ignorance of the Burmese language. Eventually the Lieutenant Governor gained the day, and now he insists that, contrary to the custom of the institution, the new Superintendent shall be allowed to engage in private practice. To this second demand the Committee and subscribers do not appear inclined to submit. But, in the whole controversy, one most important point seems to have been entirely lost sight of, namely that a medical woman, unless she is also a competent nurse, is not qualified to instruct probationers in nursing duties. It is universally recognized that nurs-

ing is a distinct vocation from that of medicine, and that a nurse should keep strictly within the limits of her own profession, but it seems difficult to impress upon the public mind that a medical practitioner is not qualified as a nurse by a medical education. The Committee of the Dufferin Maternity Hospital, Rangoon, should appoint a medical practitioner to take charge of the treatment of the patients, and a qualified nurse to superintend the practical nursing, and to instruct the pupils in nursing duties. Discipline cannot be maintained in a hospital upon any other basis of organization.

WOMEN AND IMPERIAL POLITICS.

AN excellent series of articles is appearing in the *Echo*, on women's interest in politics, and a paper which disseminates the sentiments contained in them deserves the support of all women. To show the tone of the articles we need only quote one paragraph: "Is it possible to pretend that women have no concern in these questions of high Imperial politics? Are women to have no voice in the matter of a war which devours their husbands and sons and sweethearts; or is it their whole duty to give up those whom they love best to be targets for Mauser bullets, and then to pinch the household expenditure in order to pay the bill when the war is over?" How women are compelled to help to pay the bill is then pointed out. Read the *Echo* of November 27th for yourself, good reader, and, further, obtain it in the future as your evening paper.

THE RED CORPUSCLE.

Lady Grey is fortunate at the present juncture in possessing a post mistress who has her full complement of red corpuscles. So often women seem lacking in them, that it is refreshing now and again to hear of one who is dowered with spirit and determination. Miss Harris effectually routed the Boers from the post office over which she presides, hauled down their flag, hoisted the Union Jack in its place, and tore down the notice posted by the enemy annexing the place, and, finally remained triumphant in undisputed possession of the territory. This plucky woman has been in charge of the post office in the township for many years and has many friends in Cape Town and Kimberley. She is fearless and independent, and at the same time strong and sympathetic. When the rewards for valour in the present war come to be distributed, we hope that the post mistress of Lady Grey will receive substantial recognition.

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