

A NURSE in one of the Mission hospitals in Palestine reports of the past year's work, in *Mercy and Truth*, as follows:—"Notwithstanding our inconvenient premises, the work has increased on every side. Over 16,000 visits were paid to the dispensary, while 188 have been in-patients for longer or shorter periods; in fact, it is quite an unusual thing to have an empty bed. For some time I have been single-handed as regards nursing, but this will not be so much longer, as a lady has been appointed, and is now in Jerusalem awaiting an escort. The in-patients are chiefly surgical cases; as a rule, they do exceedingly well from a medical point of view, and are very grateful for the care shown them. Visiting dismissed in-patients had to be discontinued for lack of time, but I trust to recommence it early in the New Year (D.V.), as I am sure that it is most important to try and keep up and add to the knowledge of the truth they have gained while with us. Many of them go out with a clear, intelligent grasp of the Gospel, and we hope and pray that the Spirit of God may bring this truth home to their hearts in all its living power.

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"THERE is among the patients a belief in the efficacy of prayer in the name of Jesus, though side by side with this belief there exists much that is erroneous; for example, a woman who had been in the hospital a long time had one day to undergo a rather painful operation, and she prayed audibly that she might be helped through it. Her prayer being answered, she is now ever telling others in like circumstances to pray; yet this same woman I found shortly after with about twenty lemon pips strung on cotton. On asking her for what purpose was this little ring, she replied that it was to be worn by her child to preserve from harm. After showing her the foolishness and sinfulness of trusting in a few lemon pips, I, of course, confiscated them; but this little incident shows how very ignorant these people are. A blue bead, a piece of alum, a section of the vertebrae of an animal, a verse of the Koran engraved on a piece of metal or written on paper and enclosed in a leathern or metal case and tied on the hair or suspended about the person, are relied on by both Moslems and Christians for the cure or the prevention of real or imaginary diseases or other evils, while with their lips they will be confessing the almightiness and mercifulness of God. The Christians, of course, use representations of saints and other symbols instead of the Koran. Yet we cannot but feel that it may be said of the majority of this people that *they draw near to Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me.*

"NOTWITHSTANDING difficulties, there are, no doubt, many of the in-patients who have grasped the facts of Christianity as never before, and, what is more, they are comparing our teaching with our lives, and that not silently, as we English are inclined to do, but openly. Do pray for us that our lives may ever witness to the truth, which it is our privilege to proclaim, and that in nothing we may offend these little ones for whom Christ died."

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"HOSPITALS teem with tales of self-sacrifice and devotion to duty," says an Indianapolis physician, "but nothing is ever heard of them on the outside simply because they are considered in the regular line of duty, and little is thought of them among the nurses. Here are two out of many cases which occurred in my 1899 practice:—

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"ONLY about a year ago a nurse sacrificed her life to save several typhoid fever patients, and did it knowingly. It was after the Indiana troops returned from the South, and some twenty-six cases of typhoid fever among the soldiers were taken to the hospital, making at that time forty-six cases in the building. The soldier cases were the worst, and required constant attention. The nurses worked night and day. This girl scarcely left her ward. The Superintendent ordered her off duty, but she came back and said her place was on the ward, and there she stayed. She had one interesting case, among the others, which every one else had given up, but she literally made that man live. As soon as convalescence had been established, this nurse was taken down with the fever. I saw her the next day, and she told me then she would die; that she had given all of her strength and vitality and had nothing to fall back on. We did everything in our power, but she died in three weeks."

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"NOT long ago a patient, a surgical case, was brought in one evening and put in a ward. Near morning he developed a violent attack of delirium tremens, and while the night nurse was preparing to put him under restraint the man slipped from his bed, seized a heavy window stick and ran downstairs. The nurse heard the noise and saw the man as he turned the stairway, brandishing his club. She, instead of calling for assistance, ran downstairs after him. She could hear him charging across the grounds. It was pitchy dark, but she caught the man before he got off the grounds, with much difficulty persuaded him to return with her, and finally lodged him in the strong room before sending for the house physician. She said afterward that she feared if she waited to call help the man would get clear away from her, and might injure some one."

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