

will occur regularly twice a day; but during these seasons you must keep an eye lifting for them, for they will come if so disposed. When they do come they relieve the monotony of life on board a hulk considerably, and will no doubt occasionally cause a hospital-hulk to break her moorings and go adrift out to sea. Still, as it is healthier out at sea, a little trip will not matter much; and there is not a colony in West Africa that would view unmoved the departure of its hospital-ship with the white lady nursing-staff on board, or would not send out immediate assistance to fetch her home again.

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"THEN there is another objection—the difficulty of getting men in such a place as the Gold Coast out across the surf to the hospital-ship; and much was made of this difficulty when I first advocated such floating hospitals for West Africa. However, when we remember that, in desperation, sick men are at present brought out through the surf to get a last chance, by getting out to sea in a mail-boat, without proper accommodation for such patients, this objection to hospital-ships is ridiculous. In fact, I am convinced the advantages of a floating hospital—its comfort, cleanliness, and sanitary condition generally—far outweigh any possible difficulties.

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"I VENTURE, also, to say that even the admitted disadvantages would disappear were the floating hospitals fitted as cruisers rather than moored hulks; one such cruiser for Gambia and Sierra Leone, and one for the Gold Coast, Lagos, and Niger Territories. Even the moored hulk, with all its shortcomings, is preferable to any so-called sanatorium on high ground in West Africa; but, as I have published my reasons for distrusting the efficiency of a sanatorium ashore, these need not be stated here.

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"As an alternative plan, however, I should suggest that every mail-steamer running to West Africa should have a large, roomy, properly fitted hospital-cabin, with a trained nurse in charge—the steamers already carry doctors. This nurse should be one from a shore-hospital, thus giving these women, in rotation, a change from shore-life now and then. By this plan, instead of the expensive system now in vogue of a voyage home every eight months or so, the nurse could serve a year or eighteen months in comparative safety on the coast, which she certainly could not do in safety ashore. The mail-steamer should act in connection with the shore-hospitals on the same system as the hospital-cruiser referred to in my first scheme."

The Association of Asylum Workers.

THE Annual Meeting of the Association of Asylum Workers was held at the Medical Societies' Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., on Monday last. Sir James Crichton Browne presided. There was a fair attendance.

The objects of the Association, as laid down in its Annual Report presented at the meeting, are excellent, and we are glad to observe that both on the general account and the Home of Rest account, there is a balance in hand at the end of the year. Miss Evans, of Berrywood Asylum, the retiring Hon. Treasurer, is to be congratulated upon her balance sheet.

Sir James Crichton Browne is getting on. We are inclined to believe that he reads (*sub-rosa*, of course) his NURSING RECORD, for he now advocates more exact and extensive training in hospital work under a trained nurse or Sister for asylum attendants. They should, he thinks, be experienced nurses, with training in the care of the mentally afflicted in addition. Has he forgotten, we wonder, that his name is appended to the Report advocating the admission of asylum attendants who had never been inside a general hospital, to the Register of Trained Nurses. They ought, he is now of opinion, to be so qualified that they could proceed at any moment to South Africa to nurse our sick and wounded, and then go on to India with *healing in their wings* to take up some of the valuable openings which he learns, on good authority, will soon be available in connection with the care of the insane in our Indian empire. Sir James Crichton Browne, it would appear, was, at this point, carried away by his flow of rhetoric from the paths of strict accuracy, or is the anatomy of asylum attendants different from that of other mortals? The investigations of the post-mortem room have as yet failed to reveal any provision for wings in the majority of mankind!

The Chairman also made a great point of the right of Asylum Attendants to Governmental pensions. We hope, however, that the members of this Association will not be carried away by any high-flown orations delivered for effect, but will recognize that what they need is better training, shorter hours, and, as a consequence of greater efficiency, better pay. When they have an adequate professional training, they will then be able to join in the demand of other trained nurses for State recognition and legal registration, and, their work being of value to the body politic, their position will be a strong one when they ask for provision for their old age.

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