

my hours of leisure. The late Miss Mary Kingsley made only two voyages to West and South-West Africa, each voyage only of a few months' duration; yet she returned with her powerful mind stored with a greater knowledge of the white trader, of the shortcomings of the Crown Colony system, of native law and custom than any previous traveller, and gave a great deal of her time to the proper understanding of native questions; and so thoroughly had she worked, that I felt, when talking with her on any of her favourite subjects, that I had sadly wasted my many opportunities during my long connection with Africa. I see the merchants of Liverpool and Manchester are debating in what way they can best perpetuate the memory of so distinguished a woman; last week, at the first meeting held for the purpose in Liverpool, a sum of close upon £3,000 was subscribed in a few moments in sums of £500 to £1,000, one of the subscribers being the Hon. Mr. Blaize, a well-known African native merchant of Lagos. I hope you will pardon me for introducing into my paper the memorial to the late Miss Mary Kingsley, but as I am addressing to-day a society of ladies, I trust you will not rule me "out of order," more especially, as whatever sum of money is raised, I am inclined to believe some portion of it will find its way towards the furtherance of the object I have spoken on to-day. So far, the proposals have been—a Mary Kingsley hospital in Liverpool for tropical diseases, a number of small Mary Kingsley hospitals to be erected in various places in Western Africa, or a hospital ship to be stationed on the west coast of Africa.

There will shortly be formed one, if not two committees, here in London, for the purpose of discussing, with the committees of other towns all over Great Britain, what form the memorial shall take. May I venture to hope that every one present here to-day will in some way assist by all the means in their power, in making this memorial to Miss Mary Kingsley something worthy of the women of England and of the memory of one whose life was laid down in that most holy and Christian cause—the nursing of our enemies.

As you all no doubt know, Miss Mary Kingsley was nursing the Boer prisoners suffering from typhoid in the Palace Hospital, Simons Town, South Africa, when she contracted her fatal illness. I should like to read to you an extract from the letter of Dr. Carré, the head, I believe, of that hospital. He writes:—"What a valuable life thrown away, poor Miss Kingsley. No one but myself can know what work she did here, and what confidence and

trust she put in me. I must often have been wrong in my ideas, I must often, in the stress of overwork, have been most irritable, and yet never once did Miss Kingsley question the wisdom of my orders, or my actions; all she did was to obey and ever express her wish to do 'anything' which would help me. And she did help me through one of the most difficult tasks I could have been given to do, without that help I could never have done here what has been done. What credit I get for the success of the work here in great measure belongs to her."

It only remains now for me to thank you all, for your kind and courteous attention to the few remarks I have had to make on "The Nursing of the Sick at Sea," and to hope that my paper may be the speck upon the horizon which will grow into the big cloud of public opinion and cause the proper nursing of the sick at sea to become an accomplished fact.

DISCUSSION.

MISS M. BREAY: I have been most keenly interested in the able paper presented by the Comte de Cardi as the nursing of the sick at sea is a subject which I have very closely at heart. I am not now referring to the nursing of persons suffering from what is ordinarily known as sea-sickness. We are as a rule very sorry for ourselves when suffering from this disagreeable complaint, but somehow, after a while, we usually find that life is worth living after all. I am at present, speaking as a former Matron of a tropical hospital, for I had for a time the honour of holding this position in the hospital maintained by the Universities Mission to Central Africa in Zanzibar. I should like to point out some of the reasons which present themselves to me in support of the Comte de Cardi's suggestions. In Zanzibar, owing to the prevalence of malaria, and other tropical diseases, it not infrequently happened that we were obliged to send our patients home; indeed, we often most anxiously awaited the arrival of the homeward bound mail, as it was a question as to whether the patient whose life hung in the balance would live on in that enervating climate until the ship, and with it his one chance of life, arrived. But it follows that a patient who is so seriously ill needs the most careful nursing, and that a nurse must be sent with him, otherwise he must inevitably die on board ship, and might as well be allowed to do so in the hospital on shore, where he can have every possible care and attention. This is a most serious consideration. Such illnesses occur as a rule in the unhealthy season, when the resources of the nursing staff are taxed to the uttermost by the influx of patients, besides which, the nurses themselves are, of course, as liable as others to be laid low with fever. If we had known that the incoming ship carried a nurse, and that the patient would be well cared for, our difficulties would have been materially lessened. As it was, it was necessary to deplete the small and fixed staff, for there is no possibility of getting extra nurses in a place like Zanzibar; and incidentally, of course, the expense of sending a nurse half way, or the whole way to England with a patient is heavy. Further, the extra work thrown upon the remaining staff certainly led to more

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