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EDITED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK.

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No. 710.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1901.

VOL. XXVII.

Editorial.

AN OBLIGATION OF EMPIRE.

NO work which has been inspired by the conscience of a woman is likely to have more far-reaching or beneficent influence than that of the Colonial Nursing Association, which was founded on the initiative of Mrs. Francis Piggott.

The efficient organization of the nursing of the sick in connection with the public services controlled by the Government, is a matter of vital moment, and it is most satisfactory that both Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Brodrick have shown themselves alive to the importance of skilled nursing in the departments for which they are responsible.

Mr. Chamberlain has personally shown his interest in the work of the Colonial Nursing Association, by attending a meeting in Edinburgh in support of its new Scottish branch, which is endeavouring to raise the sum of £1,000 towards the invested funds, at which the Lord Provost of Edinburgh presided.

The Colonial Secretary said that he should find it difficult to add much to what had been said of the necessity for such an Association, but he approached the subject from the official

standpoint, the point of view of the Secretary of State, charged with the responsibility for the administration of a great number of colonies existing under very various circumstances in all parts of the world. There was no man in the United Kingdom who could fail to be proud of what his countrymen had done in the way of civilization, law, order, justice and religion in the distant corners of the earth. But if our debt be great to them we must remember that we had what Mrs. Chamberlain had appropriately called, some little time since, an obligation of Empire. Think for a moment what is the condition of a man employed by the Government in this great and important work in a colony to which his constitution is not adapted, struck down by an illness which might not be fatal, but which will inevitably be fatal if it is not properly watched. Think of that man. No society, no friends, no relatives to look after him, and, as has been the case in the past, with no woman of his own colour, of his own race, no woman with her kindly sympathy to attend on him. This is what this Association undertakes, so far as its means allow, to obviate. Mr. Chamberlain concluded by commending the Association to his audience as a Christian, charitable, and Imperial work.

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