

**The Hospital World.****STATE AID FOR BOMBAY HOSPITALS.**

The following important Resolution has been issued by the Government of Bombay:—

I. The attention of Government having been drawn to the desirability of improving the existing arrangements for the provision of trained nurses in the large hospitals of the Bombay Presidency, His Excellency the Governor in Council has had under consideration a scheme in accordance with which grants-in-aid for nursing should, subject to the exigencies of the financial situation, be admissible to those Government Hospitals in the case of which certain specified conditions may be fulfilled. It seems to the Governor in Council that by providing them with such staff of nurses as may be found requisite, the efficiency of the hospital would be increased, and at the same time additional facilities would be afforded for training of a body of qualified local nurses who would be available subsequently to attend to private cases, or for employment in the event of the outbreak of any serious epidemic.

II. In order, therefore, to encourage the provision of adequate nursing establishments in hospitals under the control of Government, the Governor in Council is pleased to direct that any such hospital will be eligible for a special grant-in-aid for the purpose, subject to the following rules:—(1) The grant shall be equal to half the expenditure on the maintenance of the nurses employed at the hospital, provided that the number and emoluments of the nurses so employed shall not exceed the scale prescribed by the Surgeon-General; (2) the balance of the expenditure on the nursing establishments shall be met from one or any of the following sources:—(i) Endowment Fund; (ii) private subscriptions; (iii) contributions from local bodies. (3). A separate account shall be kept of the Nursing Fund of each hospital in such form as may be prescribed by the Surgeon-General, and such account shall be submitted annually to that officer. The account referred to in rule 3 should be submitted by those institutions also which are already in receipt of grants-in-aid of nursing.

III. The existing grant-in-aid of nursing to some of the hospitals in Bombay is in excess of half the cost of the establishment maintained. It is not desired to reduce these grants below their present figure, but Government will not increase them unless and until they can do so in accordance with the rules now laid down.

IV. The Surgeon-General should be requested to bring these rules to the notice of the authorities concerned in the management of and the supply of nurses to the various hospitals in Bombay and other large towns in the Presidency, and in consultation with such authorities to submit, for the consideration of Government, the claims which may be put forward in respect of either a new grant, or an addition to one which has already been sanctioned. The claim of each hospital applying under the rules should be submitted separately with a full report as to the circumstances of the institution concerned.

V. The question of the best method of improving the facilities for the training of local nurses is one concerning which Government are not at present

in possession of sufficient information to enable them to issue any definite orders. The Surgeon-General should be requested to obtain, in such way as he may deem fittest, the opinion in this matter of the medical profession in Bombay, and submit a full report containing proposals for the consideration of Government.

We are glad to see that the Government of Bombay is alive to the necessity for the better provision of trained nurses.

In a country like India where the governing race is exotic, and where consequently there is a large community specially liable to sudden and serious illnesses caused to a great extent by its transplantation into unnatural surroundings, the services of well-trained nurses are especially necessary. But the cost of maintaining efficient nursing schools is increasingly heavy, and the cost of their up-keep in Government Hospitals may well be borne in part by the State, as the whole community, both European and Oriental, directly benefit by the services of the nurses trained in them.

We notice that the Government of Bombay is wisely seeking more precise information before it issues any definite orders, and that the medical profession in Bombay is to be asked to submit a full report containing proposals for the consideration of the Government. The Government can, however, never possess full information as to the best methods of training nurses until a report is also submitted to it by experienced Superintendents of Nursing, for the medical profession is not conversant with the details of nurse training, and only concerns itself with the satisfactory performance of its directions, knowing little of the methods by which this is accomplished. Whatever may be the future of the Bombay Hospitals, we hope it will never be forgotten that the nursing in them has been brought up to its present condition of efficiency through the efforts of the All Saints' Sisterhood, which has done excellent pioneer work in this direction. We notice an anonymous letter from "A Physician" in the *Indian Medical Record*, in which the writer endeavours to minimize the value of this work by suggesting that the Sisters "take advantage of their position to further their religious views, and to give preference to those nurses and patients who are of the same way of thinking." From a somewhat extensive acquaintance with the methods of this Sisterhood, we are of opinion that this suggestion is ill-founded, that not only do they not take this advantage, but they deliberately and scrupulously refrain from so doing, and that if they "further their religious views" it is by the silent demonstration of the beauty of holiness in their daily lives—a more potent factor of influence than all the creeds.

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