

Colonial Nursing Association.

The annual meeting of the Colonial Nursing Association, at which H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenberg was present, was held at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, by the kind permission of Field-Marshal Sir Henry and Lady Norman, on Thursday in last week. In the absence of the President, Earl Grey, the chair was taken by the Vice-President, the Earl of Westmeath, who said it was difficult for those at home to realise the hardships and dangers encountered by the nurses sent out by the Society, or the high sense of duty, the cheerfulness—he might almost describe it as gaiety—with which they performed their work.

The seventh annual report, which was in the hands of the meeting and was taken as read, states that several new branches and posts have been supplied, and that there is a marked increase in the number of nurses despatched to various parts of the Empire. The Committee report with satisfaction that it has only been found necessary in one case during the year to assist a nurse from the Sick Pay Fund. A satisfactory mark of evidence of the value attached to the work of the Society was the announcement that in recognition of the work done in West Africa Sir Alfred Jones has raised his subscription from £50 to £150 per annum. The total number of nurses now at work is ninety-seven, of whom seventy-three are employed by Government and twenty-four as private nurses.

Some interesting reports are included from the various colonies where the nurses are at work.

From Bangkok the Matron reports that the situation of the new Nursing Home is quite the finest in Bangkok, and gets every bit of breeze that is to be had. The in-patients are chiefly men employed in the various banks and commercial houses, and the nurses are kept constantly busy both in the house and at outside cases. The Branch has been from the first entirely self-supporting, and has never required a grant from the Central Association.

From Cyprus the Honorary Secretary to the Local Committee reports that the services of the private nurse have proved most valuable. The appreciation of skilled nursing is not confined to the English community in Cyprus; and the Greeks, who have employed the nurse, have in every case written to express their gratitude for the comfort and benefit derived from her services.

From Japan it is reported that during 1900 and 1901 not more than half the applications for the services of the nurses could be met, and a third nurse was sent out who was employed for 121 out of a possible 181 days. The Branch is entirely self-supporting. It should be noted that the Japanese Government require the nurses who intend to practise midwifery in Japan to pass the midwives' examination of that country, even though

they already hold the certificate of the London Obstetrical Society.

In Mauritius the cases attended comprised maternity, malarial, typhoid fever, abscess of the liver, numerous surgical cases, and influenza. During the past year five nurses could have been fully employed; and the staff, which only consisted of three nurses, worked hard, frequently going direct from one trying case to another, and by their readiness and devotion to duty have enabled the honorary secretary to cope with the great demand for their services.

The Matron of the Colonial Hospital at Kingstown, writing of her work at George Town, St. Vincent, during the recent eruption of La Soufrière, says:—

“On Saturday, at 6 a.m., we began work. George-town has only a small cottage hospital of four beds and a medium-sized out-patient room. Into this and two small houses were packed 170 badly-burned cases. We went in to find these poor creatures lying thick on the floor in the clothes they were burned in, and the scene defies description. The ash had stuck on in black cakes and gave their faces a terrible charred look, which, with their terrified appearance, made me think they looked like people escaped from the lower regions. Saturday, Sunday, and Monday we did these dressings from 6 a.m. until evening, whilst hired women fed and did what they could for the patients. On Thursday Major Wiel, of the R.A.M.C., arrived with six orderlies and a hospital tent from St. Lucia, by which time we had got them all on trestle beds and in clean garments.”

From Singapore the Government Matron reports that they have been very fortunate in getting nice Eurasian girls to train as probationers. This is a very important step in the right direction.

The Scottish Branch of the Association reports that during the past year the Nursing Committee has met four times to interview nurse applicants, the total number amounting to twelve. It is the aim of this Committee to recommend only the very highest class of applicants, and it is hoped that this is now well understood in the nursing profession. The report includes a list of the nurses employed, their training-schools, and their present positions.

The Earl of Selborne, in moving the adoption of the report, pointed out the difference it made to men who went to out-of-the-way places of the earth to know that they would have a chance of being nursed, when ill, by trained nurses. This was self-evident, but it was an axiom that reiteration was the secret of conviction, therefore he put the position thus to his audience: “Would you like to be nursed by an untrained man or a trained woman?” The prospect of the first was appalling. And in the case of a pioneer ill in some far-away, forgotten corner of the earth, the feeling was akin

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