

can provide. I wish here particularly to mention the steriliser for instruments. The sterilisation is done by a dry process; it is like an oven with shelves fitted with cases. These cases are drawn out, the instruments are placed in them, covered with the lid, and put in and baked. The oven is then allowed to cool, and just at the last moment, when the surgeon is ready, it is opened, the cases drawn out, the lids uncovered, the glittering instruments exposed, and the cases themselves are used instead of trays.

We also fitted up another ward as a linen-room, with pigeon-holes covered with white linen curtains, and everything in the room was painted white. This room was arranged and fitted by the Ladies' Committee. This Committee was formed for the purpose of providing the linen, which was very limited, such things as dish-cloths and doctors' towels being unknown articles. The doctors used to wash their hands in the fountain and mop them as best they could on their handkerchiefs. In a very few months they had bought and sewn £200 worth of linen, and when this was provided and we needed furniture the Ladies' Committee undertook the furniture as well as the linen, while the gentlemen undertook the building. These were very happy times; everybody worked and everybody gave. It really did one's heart good to see these fashionably-dressed men and women throwing their heart and soul into good works. They even began to take interest in the patients; several ladies sent toys, fruit, and sweets for the sick children, and some of the adults were helped after they left the hospital.

You will doubtless be amused to hear how we raised funds, apart from donations. By two subscription balls we raised some £400 and over; but these are usual means. The other means were births, funerals, engagements, weddings, and returns from voyages or journeys. No boy (girls don't count) was ever born in a well-to-do family but some members of the Committee called on the family, congratulated them, and came away with a donation. No young man got engaged or married but he received a call of congratulation with equal results; also when people returned after any absence. But the funerals were funniest of all. The Committee invested in seven glass wreaths—two white, two mauve, and two black, and one porcelain one with pink and white roses. If a young person died, the white wreaths were used; if middle-aged, the mauve; and if old, the black, the porcelain one being an extra. There was also a black cloth square, embroidered in gold, with four gold tassels in the corners. The glass wreaths were carried by the hospital servants in the funeral procession, but, if it was the funeral of a bishop or of a notable, four members of the Committee carried the embroidered cloth, holding it at the four corners. This turned out a very profitable investment indeed, for we often received £10 to £15 after a funeral. I once sent a little wooden cross covered with white satin and some violets from the garden; I got £8 10s., and the Committee £15. The bedsteads and bedding after a death, some of them very handsome brass erections with gold crowns on the top, were also frequently sent us. In this way we soon built, furnished, and supplied the hospital with linen and nursing requisites.

#### *The Nurses and Patients.*

And now we come to the most important part of all, the nursing question—for a building, beds, and furniture do not constitute a hospital.

I have already told you of the nursing arrangements that existed, and of the necessity for general reforms. There are some reforms which can only take place by evolution; others are in our hands, and can be effected more rapidly. I soon made up my mind that there was nothing for it but to make a clean sweep of everybody and everything, and to start afresh. This was by no means an easy matter, as some of the attendants had been fourteen years in the establishment and some of the Committee raised their hands in holy horror at the thought of having young women, unmarried ones, come in as nurses. That there were to be no male attendants, and these girls were to nurse men and to attend their operations, was quite a novel idea. That I should ask to have an out-patients' department built was reasonable; that I should ask to have bathrooms and lavatories on the women's side was sensible and moral; but was it moral and decent to have young unmarried women as nurses? Yet here was I, the daughter of one of the most revered men in the country, refusing to undertake the Matronship of the hospital unless it was done. They could but consent, hope, trust, and pray.

Having received the consent of the Committee, I found I had a fresh difficulty, and that was to find the girls who were willing to come. Some of the small missionary hospitals in the country and on the mountains had, it is true, found girls to train, but these hospitals were European, and were connected with missions and mission-schools, whereas this was a native hospital, supported by a special creed, and its moral tone was known to be bad, so, naturally, nice girls and their parents shrank from their entering such a place. Still, it had always been my dream to turn this hospital into a training-school for Syrian women, and I finally succeeded in making a beginning with several desirable probationers.

We adopted as the uniform blue cotton dresses, with white aprons and Sister Dora caps. Those who had seen the former nurses were delighted, while other residents, filled with curiosity, came to the hospital to see these fresh, nice-looking young girls in British uniform. It certainly was a refreshing sight to see them going about the hospital, or crossing the colonnade and garden, and though at first this dainty uniform was only an outward sign, still it was a move in the right direction and had its moral effect. The next question was how to train these girls in the art of nursing, and how to teach them order, discipline, and punctuality. The first was comparatively easy. Syrians are an extremely gifted, intelligent race, but confusion and chaos reign supreme in the East. Orientals are born in disorder, and anything else worries them. And here in the hospital we were in the midst of it, and everything had to be reduced to rule and method. Had I not been given full power, as well as been accorded the support of wealthy residents, the Committee, medical, nursing, and domestic staff, the task would have been a hopeless one. Happily, everyone was enthusiastic, everyone worked, and everyone gave. The hospital became the joy and toy of the whole community.

*(To be continued.)*

Dr. Anna Baumler, of Calcutta, recently came home in medical charge of a regular liner. She is the first lady doctor appointed to such a position.

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