

The Co-operative Nursing Scheme for India.

The nursing of their sick countrymen and countrywomen abroad is an object which must appeal to all English men and women. In relation to the colonies, the success of the Colonial Nursing Association, inaugurated only in 1895, is proof on the one hand of the need it has met, and on the other of the responsibility, felt by those who remain at home, for the welfare of their compatriots abroad when stricken down by sickness; but in India, that great empire beyond the seas, the nursing of Europeans, unconnected with the army, is practically untouched. So, anxious in the interests of the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING* to find out more about the proposed Co-operative Nursing Scheme for India, I called on Mrs. F. N. Wright, the Hon. Secretary, who kindly furnished me with some details. Mrs. Wright has lived in India, and understands not only the peculiar requirements of the country, but the special difficulties connected with the efficient organisation of private nursing there.

"We hope," she said, "to send out twenty nurses in the autumn, but this depends upon the way that funds come in, for although the scheme is to be on the co-operative basis, yet we must have a fund of about £5,000 to begin with. We want to open and furnish a home either in the North-West Provinces at Musorie, or at Kasauli in the Punjab, where the nurses will live when not at cases, for which we should charge at the rate of £1 1s. per week for board and lodging. Then money for their passages, outfits, and journeys up country must be found; we calculate that about £70 a nurse will cover this. They require, of course, a much larger stock of underlinen than at home. At the end of a certain term of years (probably five) we should pay the passage home again; but at the end of two a nurse would be free, if she chose, to return at her own expense.

"There is a most urgent need of private nurses in India; lives are constantly lost for the lack of them, and a sad thing is that plenty of people are quite in a position to pay the fees, and long to be able to obtain the services of private nurses, but no one takes the necessary steps to bring them out. Now, we have formed a committee for this purpose, and hope to be successful. Everything, of course, depends upon our getting the right nurses—women who are competent from a professional point of view, and who will put their work first and foremost. We have secured the interest of the Committee of the Nurses' Co-operation in the matter, and hope to enter into some arrangement with them. Also Miss Roberts, the Lady Superintendent, has kindly promised her valuable assistance. Of course, we will take other suitable nurses, but we shall give preference to those who have worked on the co-operative

system in England in connection with a good co-operation. We shall not consider applications from nurses working on their own account unconnected with any institution."

In reply to a question as to the fees the nurses would receive, Mrs. Wright replied that from £2 2s. to £2 12s. 6d. would probably be the fees in ordinary cases, and more for maternity ones. Maternity nurses are badly needed, and command good fees. She also mentioned that the age of candidates should be from twenty-five to thirty. The cost of living in India is cheaper than at home, and washing—that costly item in a nurse's calculations—is comparatively inconsiderable. Any Indian Dhobi (washerman) would undertake a nurse's washing for the month for 4 or 5 rupees, 4 rupees being equal to 5s. of English money.

All success to the new venture, for the foreigner seriously ill in a strange land without skilled nursing care is forlorn indeed, and sincerely to be pitied.

M. B.

President Loubet.

The genial President of the great French Republic has come and gone, and it is not too much to say that his modest demeanour and charming smile won general approbation from the woman in the street, and, after all, she knows.

President Loubet found time to pay a visit to the French Hospital in Shaftesbury Avenue, where he received a tremendous ovation.

Dr. A. Vintras presented an address of welcome, and in response the French President spoke in eulogistic terms of the hearty co-operation of the British medical profession and the charitable community, who were ever ready, regardless of nationality, to give their great talents and experience without profit.

The decoration of a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour was conferred on Mr. Edmund Owen.

Leaving the French Hospital, M. Loubet proceeded to the handsome new Home in Lancaster Gate of the Association of French Governesses in England, where he was received by the Principal, Mdlle. Lauraint, and a number of members of the Association and other ladies, all of whom wore the rose "La France."

Proceeding to the drawing-room of the Home, M. Loubet, amid the plaudits of a delighted company, at once decorated Mdlle. Lauraint with the insignia of an Officier de l'Académie, pinning the decoration upon her bod'c'. The decoration is only awarded to those who have distinguished themselves in educational work.

* After inspecting the Home, the President said he would do all in his power to foster the work, and announced that he would be pleased to subscribe £1,000 towards the funds.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)