

The interest on this sum, with the existing resources and the Government grant, will, if the leading native gentlemen support the work by modest annual subscription, suffice to meet the present needs. Through the generosity of Mrs. Wadia the expensive matter of providing quarters for the additional staff is in process of being met. Since Lieutenant-Colonel Burke, I.M.S., assumed charge of the Goculdas Tejpal Hospital a very satisfactory beginning has been made with the nursing there, and extraordinarily good work is being accomplished with very small resources. The provision of larger funds has also been accompanied by a proportionate strengthening of the supervising authority. Following the wise precedent set in the case of the St. George's Hospital Nursing Association, the funds have in each case been entrusted to a strong representative committee, registered as an association, and thus enjoying a sure and clearly defined legal position. This is no mean accomplishment for a single year. Much remains, certainly, to be done before the work can be said to be soundly established, and a steady flow of annual subscriptions is essential to the efficiency of the nursing machinery. In this connection we commend to the notice of the leading native citizens of Bombay the almost unanimous financial support the Anglo-Indian residents give to the St. George's Hospital. But, at any rate, the foundations have been laid broad and deep, the requisite machinery provided, and a strong unofficial element interested in the nursing of the hospitals. If educated and progressive Indians will only see what is being done, we have no doubt that the requisite financial support will be forthcoming.

Matters have, indeed, reached a stage when further developments have come under consideration. The drawback to the present system is that it is so strictly compartmented. There are in the city three separate Nursing Associations, controlling three separate bodies of nurses. There is little communication between the different entities, except to an insignificant extent for the purpose of training, and no exchange between Bombay and the only mofussil hospitals where nursing is at all systematically organised, the Sassoon Hospital at Poona and the Civil Hospital at Karachi. The disadvantages of this strict division are twofold. It prejudicially affects the training of the nurses, because at no hospital—though the Jamshedji Jijibhai comes nearer this desideratum than any other—are the facilities for imparting the complete, all-round training that a nurse should receive available. It also reacts upon the status and calibre of the nurses themselves. For under a system of such rigid subdivision the prospects of promotion are small, the pay is modest, and no career is opened to the ambitious and capable woman. In these circumstances it is frequently difficult to attract the most desirable candidates for the nursing staffs, or to retain

them under the necessary discipline when their training has been completed. It also, in the absence of a strong central authority, opens the door to the presence in our midst of a considerable number of semi-trained persons masquerading as qualified nurses. Precisely the same difficulty occurs in England, and the *British Medical Journal* has devoted a considerable amount of space to letters urging the establishment of a central council and examining board, and the compulsory registration of nurses. Here in India the natural development of the present movement appears to be the formation of a Nursing Service, on the lines of the Subordinate Medical Service—a proposal Lieutenant-Colonel Collie has long pressed upon the attention of Government, and which is now under consideration. The scheme originally propounded was for the amalgamation of the existing nursing funds, but this would be difficult inasmuch as there are several endowments set apart for specific purposes. But it should not be beyond the bounds of practicability to form a properly graded and pensionable nursing service, controlled by a central committee, upon which the several hospitals, whilst retaining their separate organisation, could indent for such nursing staff as they required and could pay for. Certainly, a Nursing Service would greatly improve the position and prospects of the nurses and would raise the standard of efficiency. It would provide a dignified and well-remunerated career for the energetic and capable woman, and its certificates would have a recognised value. Neither would the contingent advantages to Government be light, inasmuch as the Service would be a reserve whereon they could draw both for the mofussil hospitals and in Imperial emergencies. The formation of a Nursing Service for the Presidency would be a fitting consummation to the philanthropic enterprise which has done so much to increase the efficiency of our hospitals in recent years.

### A Nurses' Co-operation in Dublin.

The "Home and Bureau" on the co-operative system will be opened on January 1st, at 86, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin, the Lady Superintendent of which institution will be Miss M. E. Macdonnell. The Home has been established for the convenience of nurses engaged in private nursing; while off duty they can have a home, board, lodging, and all moderate comforts at moderate rates. Nurses visiting Dublin from the country on business or pleasure will also find the Home a great convenience. Miss Macdonnell will give further information to those desirous of knowing the conditions of membership. The fees to be charged appear very low. We could wish, if possible, that Irish nurses could receive better remuneration for their valuable services; but this, we are told, is not feasible, owing to the general poverty of Ireland compared with England.

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