

Mission in Peshawur, said there was a great need for nurses in connection with foreign mission work. On the staff of the C.M.S. there were seventy-four doctors and only thirty-six nurses, nothing like one nurse for each hospital. Dr. Lankaster said that in connection with his own work he was certain many lives would have been saved if they had even one careful nurse to insist upon patients taking their food and to see it properly cooked, but they had just to do as they could without a single one. This was a woman's work, and ought not to be left to a surgeon to do as best he could, and to be done indifferently. Passing on to describe some native remedies, he said the favourite native treatment was to wrap the patient in the skin of an animal just slain and still dripping with warm blood. The method of tooth extraction was very wonderful, and the instrument used by the native doctors would be scorned by a plumber in his work as being quite too antiquated for use.

Lady Thompson, writing from Kastoria to the Executive Committee of the Macedonian Relief Fund, and announcing that the hospital will shortly be closed, says:—"I cannot speak too highly of the devotion of the Sisters, their patience, good spirits, and kindness to all who came to the hospital; and their work had, as you know, been carried on under great disadvantages—an inconvenient old house and constantly changing stream of patients, whose personal habits do not make the task of nursing them exactly pleasant. There have been only six deaths in the hospital out of a total up to the present of 240 inmates. Each inmate when he left took away a blanket, shirt, and socks, and often a present of money; and the food and warmth did as much as the medical treatment for each of them."

The Board of Management of the Somerset Hospital, Cape Town, reported at the Annual Meeting in respect to the changes which have taken place in the nursing staff during the past year that the Board had for some time been dissatisfied with the condition of this branch, and, circumstances having arisen which called upon the Board to take decided steps to enforce discipline, several of the Sisters and nurses resigned. The course taken by the management involved at the time some anxiety and serious responsibility, especially to the resident surgeon, and much additional work for him and those of the staff who remained loyal to the institution, but the result of adhering to a firm course had been to raise the efficiency and character of the nursing staff, and to restore comfortable arrangements for the Sisters and nurses themselves. For this the Board was indebted, in the first instance, to the resident surgeon, and next to the co-operation of the honorary medical staff and the Government. The successful issue

was also partly due to Miss Lowry, who accepted the temporary Matronship at a very short notice. After nearly three months of unremitting exertion, this lady left the department in a very different state to that in which she found it to the control of Miss Child, who had been appointed Matron, with Miss Paul as Assistant Matron—officials whom the Board believed would fully maintain efficiency and a high tone in the nursing staff, and promote an *esprit de corps* which had been lacking of late. The Board and the medical staff had decided to raise the standard of professional qualification, and to send forth from this Medical School a constant supply of well-qualified nurses.

The Annual Report of the Kimberley Hospital contains an appreciation of the late Matron, Miss E. Strickland, whose death took place at the end of last year after only a week's illness. Miss Strickland served the Board for a period of six and a-half years—three and a-half years as Ward Sister, and three years as Matron; she always took the keenest possible interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the hospital, and was held in the highest esteem by everyone who had the privilege of knowing her.

The standard of efficiency maintained by the hospital may be estimated by the fact that all the candidates who presented themselves for the Government certificate as trained nurses passed the examination satisfactorily. Their theoretical instructor was the Senior House Surgeon, Dr. William Russell, D.P.H.

Last Friday, those members of the Society of Women Journalists who were able to accept the invitation of the S.R.S. at 431, Oxford Street, appeared much interested in the question of State Registration. Lady Helen Munro Ferguson presided, and, in a most lucid and eloquent explanation, put our case most convincingly before the audience. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick spoke on the present disorganised condition of nursing education and work, and proved how unjust it was to those trained nurses who have spent three or four years qualifying themselves for their responsible duties.

The Women Journalists, being working women, at once grasped the situation, and Miss O'Connor Eccles, the eminent writer, in her humorous way, made light of the arguments of the opposition that Registration was a virus inimical to all the domestic virtues; she was of opinion that English nurses were the best in the world, and their fine work deserved recognition, and, like all unprejudiced persons she could not find any just reason for opposing it. After votes of thanks, talk over the tea-cups gave opportunities for arousing further interest in the difficult task of fighting vested interests for the benefit of nurses and their patients.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)