

At Delhi the foundation-stone of the Victoria Commemorative Purdah Hospital was recently laid by Lady Rivaz. The hospital will be affiliated to the National Association for providing female medical relief to the women of India, and a special school for training midwives under the Victoria Memorial Scholarships Fund will be established.

Details have been received of the women and children treated in zenana hospitals, wards, and dispensaries by female agency throughout the country, and statistics show that 1,792,000 patients have received relief.

The financial statement shows the income and expenditure of the Central Committee for the year under review. The opening credit balance was Rs.1,15,896, and the closing balance Rs.11,100. The former figure included a sum of Rs.98,000, which was received on December 30th, 1902, in repayment of the 4½ per cent. Calcutta Municipal debentures of 1882-83.

The financial statement of the Victoria Memorial Scholarships Fund, initiated by Her Excellency Lady Curzon with the object of keeping in perpetual remembrance the sympathetic interest taken by the late Queen-Empress in the domestic troubles of the women of India, shows the income and expenditure of the Fund for the year under review. The opening credit balance was Rs.7,687, and the closing balance Rs.1,327. The subscriptions received during the year amounted to Rs.43,567, and the interest on investments to Rs.25,922.

The actual sum which has been received in donations and subscriptions since the inauguration of the Fund is Rs.6,87,002; the interest accruing on this investment, about Rs.26,000, is distributed to the various centres whence it has been received.

### The Select Committee.

In the House of Commons on Monday, June 6th, Mr. Tennant asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether he was now prepared to set up the Select Committee on Nursing and the State Registration of Nurses, and to state what would be the reference to the Committee.

Mr. Balfour: I hope the Committee may be set down shortly. I do not think there ought to be any difficulty as regards the terms of reference, but I am not yet in a position to state them to the House. I do not know whether it may be worth while adding that there are two Bills now before the House dealing with the subject, which, if the House were content to read them formally a second time, might be referred to the Committee.

Mr. Tennant: Do I understand that the Government would assist private members—that they would not put any obstacle in their way?

Mr. Balfour: They would not put any obstacle in their way, but I do not think I could promise Government time.

### Legal Matters.

#### "BURNT TO THE BONE."

An action heard last week by his Honour Judge Raikes in the Pocklington County Court brought out many points of great nursing importance. The plaintiffs were Mr. and Mrs. Hayhurst, a labourer and his wife, of Londesborough, and the defendants Mr. J. J. Bickersteth and Lady Margaret Bickersteth, treasurer and secretary of the Wilton Beacon Benefit Nursing Association. The plaintiffs alleged negligence on the part of a nurse employed by the Association, and claimed £50 damages.

#### The Plaintiffs' Case.

The plaintiffs' solicitor said that in October it became necessary for Mrs. Hayhurst to have abdominal section performed. She had made an arrangement to go to the Hull Infirmary, but as she became worse she was advised to have it done at home. She applied for a nurse to the Nursing Association, to which she had subscribed for two years, mentioning that she was to undergo an operation. The lady, Mrs. Young, to whom she made application, subsequently informed her the Association could not supply one of its own nurses, but would send a "Home" nurse.

On October 17th, Nurse Quest came from Hull and took charge of the patient, being paid, he understood, by the Wilton Beacon Association. The operation was performed on October 28th. Nurse Fishburn, one of the regular nurses of the Association, was present, but had no allotted part in the operation, being simply there to gain experience. Two hot-water bottles were used at the time of the operation, and when the patient was carried upstairs and left in charge of Nurse Quest hot-water bottles were placed against her feet and in the bed. She remained under the influence of the anaesthetic for some time, and her first recollection on gaining consciousness was of great pain in her feet. She complained to Nurse Quest. Afterwards she found her right foot had been badly burned to the bone, and the left one severely injured. The next day she complained to the nurse, who told her there was little or nothing the matter with her feet, and when she spoke of it again she told her not to say anything to the doctor. It was four days later when she first mentioned the injury to the doctor; in the meantime the nurse had dressed her feet and told her they would soon be all right.

Mr. Powell, the plaintiff's solicitor, said that the Association kept direct control over the nurses while engaged with a case, and if any wrong were done to a person attended by one of the nurses the Association was responsible for the wrong so caused.

#### Mrs. Hayhurst's Evidence.

Mrs. Hayhurst said when she asked Nurse Quest to look at her foot, she said it was slightly burned—nothing serious. She told her not to say anything to the doctor about it, as it was a great disgrace to let

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