

from two guineas a week, and accommodation will be provided for 200 patients.

It is to be hoped that this company has some business-like nurses amongst its directors. Thoroughly efficient nursing, with board, lodging, and other home comforts, are not to be obtained for £2 2s. in the West End of London. We have had personal experience of this work, and know that it cannot be done.

Dr. James MacDonagh, writing to the *Lancet* states an instance of two nurses working under the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute who objected to assisting him at an operation for phimosis in a man of about twenty-three years of age, one of them stating: "I am most surprised that you should ask us to attend for an operation of this nature in a man; you have no right to ask us to do such a thing, and it is no part of our duty to do so." We have often expressed the opinion in this journal that the sex question does not enter into the relations of nurse and patient; the only point to be considered is the need of the sick person. An absence of self-consciousness on the part of the nurse is her best asset in relation to cases of this kind. We quite agree with the editorial note of our contemporary: "A hospital nurse attends such cases as she is instructed to attend, regardless of such points as are alluded to in our correspondent's letter."

The Public Health Committee of Edinburgh recommended the provision of bicycle accommodation for the nurses of the City Hospital at a probable cost of £60. The Lord Provost said it seemed a funny thing to ask £60 for a nursery for bicycles. It seemed a little like wasting money. Mr. Gibson explained that all that was wanted was the covering in with glass the sides of the corridor from the servants' to the nurses' home. If this corridor were closed in there would be ample room for the accommodation of the nurses' bicycles. The Lord Provost suggested that it would be cheaper to build a small house in the grounds. He said he could put up such a house with a corrugated roof for £25, but Mr. Gibson assured him that if they began to erect another building it would come to a great deal more than the £60.

The Up-Country Nursing Association for Europeans in India is doing excellent, and much-needed work in sending trained nurses to India for employment under local committees in nursing sick Europeans in up-country districts. Until 1892, when this Association was founded, nurses were unattainable, except in the Presidency towns and large stations, however essential their services might be, in cases of dangerous illness. Since that day thirty-one nurses have been sent to India, and there is ample testimony as to the value and excellence

of the services they have rendered. The initial cost incurred by the Association in the case of each nurse sent out to India is about £75 for outfit, passage, and incidental expenses, and the work is frequently hindered for want of funds. The Committee are therefore appealing for subscriptions from those whose knowledge of India enables them to realise the value of a nurse's service at a time of anxious crisis, to enable them to maintain an adequate staff and to extend the work to new centres as occasion offers. We hope that the local committees in India include ladies with practical experience as trained nurses. It is essential, if the difficulties and requirements of the nurses in their work are to be understood, that this point should receive attention. Nurses in India cannot work as they work at home without injury to their health, and arrangements should be made for a rest in the middle of the day, and for time off duty in which they can take exercise if they are to keep in condition for work. The weak point of the Central Committee at home appears to be that it includes no expert in nursing, an essential matter if the right women are to be selected.

The following extract from a letter just received from Tokio will be interesting to our readers:—

"One admires the way the women of the country fall into their places as a support to the Army Medical Service in the war. All the male *personnel* are drafted from the hospitals in the home territory and join the columns of the field army. The women nurses step into their places in the hospitals in Tokio and elsewhere, and carry on the work of Nursing Sisters. They are all fully trained during a three years' course at hospitals belonging to the Red Cross Society or at other civil hospitals. I visited to-day the Juntendo Hospital here, and saw the system of training. This hospital, which is the oldest and at the same time one of the newest in construction, as the old buildings are being pulled down and buildings on a new plan erected, employs only women nurses, and trains them in the hospital. They go through a theoretical and practical course of about three years after they have been trained. This is only one example of the resources of the country in supplying the hospitals with trained female attendants. I have just seen a large operation at the University Hospital, where the instruments were looked after and the dressings arranged, &c., by Japanese women, and nothing could have been done more skilfully or more in accordance with the principles of asepsis. There are, however, one or two English ladies here who have come out from England under the impression that they can be of some help in the war. This must embarrass the Japanese War Office very much. They are all so courteous in their manner of refusing to be rushed in matters that concern themselves only (when one comes to think of it) that one is rather ashamed of finding one's own countrywomen pushing themselves into the affairs of their army when it is engaged in a struggle which means everything to them. Of course, the Japanese recognise that it is all done out of sympathy with them, but it is a mistaken form of sympathy. There are thousands of Japanese

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