

come nurses, and so help to overcome the stupendous ignorance and grovelling superstitions that prevail so widely in Oriental lands.

The medical missionary and the trained nurse, however, are needed in the foreign field, not only in their professional capacity, but because they are able to overcome prejudice, to open doors for the message of Christ, and to incarnate that message in a way which is absolutely superior to that of the preacher or the teacher. There is a language which the whole human race can understand, and which carries a message that everyone, sooner or later, desires to hear. The medical missionary is master of this unspoken tongue of the heart. He is welcome in the home of the stranger. The fanatic Mohammedan allows him in the innermost harem; the Mandarin calls him to his palace, and the Brahmin leads him into his home. For the Christian physician and the trained nurse, there is no chance to invest life than can compare for a moment in influence and power with that on the mission field.

It has been written: "You take the Bible to the heathen and he may spit upon it, or burn it, or throw it out as worthless. You preach the Gospel to him, and he may regard you as a hireling who makes preaching a trade. He may meet your arguments with sophistry, your appeals with a sneer. You educate him, and he may turn from a heathen to an infidel, but heal his bodily ailments in the name of Christ, and you are sure at least that he will love you and bless you, and all that you say will have for him a meaning and a power not conveyed by other leaders."

The Australasian Trained Nurses' Association is arranging a Conference of delegates from all its branches at which many important matters will be discussed, most important of all the question of State Registration of Trained Nurses. The *Australasian Trained Nurses' Journal* says that during the past year or two there has been a tendency on the part of the Governments of several States to lend some support to this movement, and in the interests of nurses it is eminently desirable that the State enactments should be as uniform as possible.

Only nurses know the great strain upon the nervous system caused by the anxiety inseparable from their work, and their long hours on duty, both day and night. The more conscientious and devoted a nurse is the more she feels the responsibilities which she undertakes. No doubt this accounts for the painful frequency

of cases of suicide amongst nurses. Quite recently three cases have been reported of the deaths of nurses, one of whom took her life while at a patient's house in Liverpool by cutting her throat, another was found dead in her bedroom at Bideford with a half-emptied bottle of carbolic acid at her side, and a third who died at Tooting was found to have died from natural causes accelerated by an overdose of laudanum, which she was in the habit of taking. At the subsequent inquest it transpired that the laudanum was purchased by a child who said it was required for an old gentleman's leg, and the foreman of the jury expressed strong disapproval at the easy way in which children were allowed to obtain this drug. The Coroner, Mr. Troutbeck, said that if the child had been sent for a pint of beer there would have been restrictions put upon it.

The question of trained nurses on liners, to which prominence was first given at a Matrons' Council Conference, has from time to time received some attention, but not so much as its importance demands. The steamship companies seem to approve of a hybrid combining the duties of trained nurse and stewardess, with the rank and pay of the latter, and are averse—presumably on the ground of expense—to appointing trained nurses as first class officers. Those who oppose the appointment of trained nurses say there is not enough work to keep them fully employed. The same might be said of doctors, nevertheless no passenger ship of standing would now put to sea without one, and we hope the day will come when the public will insist upon the presence of trained nurses on all ocean liners.

The necessity for the re-organisation of nursing in the Royal Navy has long been apparent, and a Deputation from the Matrons' Council, received on behalf of the First Lord of the Admiralty, urged the necessity for the formation of a Nursing Department in connection with the Admiralty, with a trained nurse at its head as executive officer, on the lines which have since been adopted at the War Office in connection with the Military Nursing Service, to the great benefit of the sick soldier. Unfortunately the Admiralty has not so far sanctioned this progressive policy, and, from a letter recently published in the *Naval and Military Record*, there appears to be a good deal of discontent amongst the Sisters in Naval Hospitals as to their conditions of service. It is certain that sooner or later the Royal Naval Nursing Service must be reorganised, and the present First Lord of the Admiralty has a great opportunity for serving our sick sailors.

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