

Other correspondents suggest the food supply of the nurses was to blame; however, as soon as the outbreak occurred, Professor Haffkine made a very minute inspection of the sanitary surroundings of the entire hospital buildings and also of the whole of the food supply, and made the following statement: "A great deal of care is exercised in the management of the hospital and an enormous amount of attention is bestowed on everyone connected with it. Nothing was absolutely free from danger, but nevertheless food and the channels through which it has to pass in the hospital are submitted to the closest scrutiny."

From the following statement made by "A Mourner" we agree that "a further question that may require investigation is whether eight hours' duty at one time is not too much to expect from a nurse (who in most cases is quite a young girl), in this trying climate especially, during certain months of the year. Whilst on duty she has several patients to attend to, and as a matter of course is continuously on the move, and the length of the hospital buildings will give one some idea of the distance she has to travel during the eight hours she is on duty. Then again every third day, instead of being eight hours on duty in the twenty-four, she has 16 hours, and when from the latter is deducted the time necessary to obtain some food and the distance from the hospital to her quarters, to undress, to get to sleep and again to get up and dress before she can again return to her ward, does not on these days give her at the most more than six hours' rest in the twenty-four, if as much. It is true that at the end of nine days' duty a nurse is 32 hours off duty, but this means she has after being on nine days' consecutive duty consisting of eight hours in every twenty-four hours for six days and sixteen hours' duty during three days, she then after all this on the last of her nine days when her duty was from 11 at night to 7 in the morning gets 32 hours off duty, and is back to duty at 3 p.m. next day. It will not do to make comparisons between the hours of duty here and in England, for leaving aside the question of climate, etc., nurses at home have not the distances to travel before they get to their wards that those here have to get over. I think there can be no doubt but that most of the victims to the late outbreak were decidedly 'run down' but where is the nurse who would give this as a reason for not being able to do her work? This is what requires looking into."

These hours of work for nurses are altogether obsolete and intolerable, and should be at once framed upon a practical and humane basis.

We hope the Indian Government, which subsidises the Presidency General Hospital at Calcutta, will insist upon reorganisation.

A number of additional nurses are in all probability to be appointed in the Nurse Corps of the American Navy, says the *Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette*. Upon entering the Nurse Corps of the Navy a nurse serves three months or more in the United States, during which time she receives special instruction and is inducted into the lines of work peculiar to her new position. She is then ready for duty, at home or abroad, in hospitals or on the seas. She has already agreed to serve in the Navy for at least three years. A complete tour of duty at foreign stations lasts about two years. She has a vacation of thirty days per year, with pay. Her salary is \$40 (£8) per month at home, and \$50 (£10) per month abroad, with quarters and subsistence. The chief nurses receive additional pay according to the responsibility of their positions.

We learn with unusual regret that Miss Genevieve Cooke, the very able editor of the *Nurses' Journal of the Pacific Coast*, has, through ill health been compelled to discontinue her arduous duties for some months. Miss Cooke's work is deeply appreciated by all nurses on the Pacific Coast, and we unite with them in wishing her a speedy recovery. In the meantime Mrs. Elsie Courier Phillips is seated in the editorial chair, and informs us that the business and editorial office of the *Nurses' Journal of the Pacific Coast* will, until further notice, be located at Room 14, Bacon Building, Oakland, California.

Nursing affairs are conducted in Australasia with so much discretion that the nurses seldom take a very prominent part in public meetings—debatable questions are thrashed out in Council. The strong and effective stand made by the private nurses' representatives at the Annual Meeting of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association in objecting to premature discussion on the economic question of nursing the less well-to-do was therefore as surprising as it was commendable.

His Excellency the Governor and Lady Gibson Carmichael were present, and the former said the evening was interesting to him in many ways. It was the first time he had listened to his wife making a speech. Her advice that the nurses should not extend the field of their operations without due consideration as to how it would affect their economic conditions hit the right nail on the head.

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