

Nursing Echoes.



The Executive Committee of the Colonial Nursing Association, of which Lord Ampthill is President, in presenting the Fourteenth Annual Report is once again able to record a further extension of work. During the year the Committee has selected a Nurse Matron for the Tai Koo Hospital, Hong Kong, recently built and equipped by one of the leading firms in the East for the benefit of their employees. Additional private nurses have been supplied for Ceylon, Shanghai, and Madrid. New appointments under Government have been occasioned by the opening of the Lady Ridgway Block attached to the Lady Havelock Hospital, Colombo, and by the building of a new hospital at Warri, in Southern Nigeria. A Matron has been appointed to the Government Hospital, Nairobi, East Africa, and additions have been made to the Nursing Staff in the Nikosia Hospital, Cyprus, the Colonial Hospital, Sierra Leone, and the General Hospital, Nassau, in the Bahamas. At the request of the Foreign Office, a nurse has also been supplied for work in the Protectorate of Zanzibar. The total number of nurses at work during the last 11 months has been 220; of whom 69 have been employed as Private Nurses, and 151 by Government.

An excellent feature of the Report is the appended list of nurses with their training and appointments, with a map indicating the places where they are employed and the scope of the Association's work.

The Scottish Branch of the Association, of which Lady Balfour of Burleigh is President, reports a slight increase in the number of applicants for posts. We notice, with pleasure, that the Nursing Committee of the Scottish Branch includes Miss Gill (Lady Superintendent, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh), Miss Cowper (Superintendent of Scottish Branch, Q.V.J.I.), and Miss K. Burleigh (Lady Superintendent, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh), a professional proportion which compares very favourably with that of the English Nursing Committee.

The usual annual public meeting of this Association was abandoned this year owing to the national mourning, and in its place a general

meeting of the council, committee, and subscribers was held last week in the Australian Conference Room, Imperial Institute, for the transaction of formal business. Financial assistance has been afforded from the funds of the Association where help was needed in the poorer Colonies, and the executive committee ask for continued support in forwarding the cause of skilled nursing wherever the need for it is experienced, whether it be in the British Colonies and dependencies, or among the many isolated British communities which are to be found in every part of the world.

Mr. H. Dixon Kimber has written to the *Times* in reference to the reply given recently in the House of Commons to Mr. Morton by the President of the Local Government Board, respecting the letter of his Department to the Workhouse Nursing Association, refusing the Association's request for a public inquiry into the Hemel Hempstead tragedy. Mr. Kimber complains that in that letter Nurse Bellamy is referred to in a manner which he is advised by counsel is a libel on his client, when the passage complained of is taken with the context, and that had it been written by an individual she would have had her redress.

Mr. Kimber shows that both the Master and his wife—the Superintendent Nurse—knew of the condition of a patient, who subsequently died, late the previous night, but neither thought it necessary to send for the doctor or even to see the man or the nurse the first thing on the Monday morning. "Yet this untrained assistant nurse is charged with criminal neglect for not doing what the trained Superintendent Nurse did not think it necessary to do, and for not carrying out instructions which she never received."

The Special Committee appointed by the Guardians to investigate the question recommended that the Master and Matron be informed that they could not be exonerated from efficiently supervising their subordinates. "Elaborate new bath rules were also formulated for the approval of the Local Government Board."

Mr. Kimber asserts that Mr. Burns' main desire seemed to be to shield his Department and those concerned with the institution in a superior position to his client, though this could only be achieved at the expense of a young woman, whose character was her only means of livelihood.

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