

not only as a helpful and essential agent in relieving suffering and sorrow, but in forwarding the kingdom of Heaven.

The history of missions in Africa affords such important themes that it is scarcely possible to touch even on the essentials in a sketch such as this is.

To the north Egypt presents problems of an awakened national spirit, crude, grasping, and unbalanced, similar to the condition of India.

Islamism is spreading south and west, invading and claiming the hitherto Pagan and Animistic tribes of Nigeria and the Sudan, and further south flowing towards the almost Christianised land of Uganda. Reinforcements are urgently needed not merely to augment the staffs of existing stations, but to open up new ones, so that Christian missions may spread east and west, north and south, to stem the tide of Islam and gain for Christ whole nations hitherto untouched by that faith, which ineffective to transform and elevate the soul, condemns womanhood to a condition of despair and degradation.

Space will not allow more than reference to the comparatively untouched countries of Central and South America, nor does the Christian church yet realise their vast extent in population and pressing needs. Nor do we yet realise the vastness of the territories unoccupied by Christian missionaries.

With such facts before us, does not the task seem too great, and yet let us remember what God has accomplished in these more than a hundred years of missionary work, and realise how the seed has germinated and grown and increased a hundredfold and even a thousandfold as the years go by.

Suffice it for this to be a trumpet call to arms, to further endeavour, to greater sacrifice and devotion.

You must have recognised how important a factor Medical Missions have proved in the development of Christian enterprise, and how several hundreds of highly qualified medical men and women have devoted life and talents to this section of the work.

Will it not surprise you that, as was pointed out by your Secretary, Miss H. Y. Richardson, to the Medical Missionary Conference in connection with the World Missionary Conference, this year, that there are only 270 British Missionary nurses as compared with 405 medical missionaries. In the Church Missionary Society they have, I believe, 51 nurses against 98 doctors, the London Missionary Society has only 9 qualified nurses as against 38 qualified men and women, and the proportion in other societies is probably much the same.

Can life hold out to you better prospects? True, the Missionary Nurse may not win professional advancement of the kind so sought after at home, but she will (if merited) have positions of responsibility second to none. She will have to be Matron of a hospital, to be the pioneer and teacher of modern methods of nursing, to be a Florence Nightingale to some dark region of Africa or India, or pioneer of nursing to that great Chinese nation. She will win the gratitude of thousands, for life renewed and darkness dispelled, and by devoting her life and gifts to the Shepherd of all, will truly and fully realise the highest ideals for herself, and satisfy those inner depths which remain so often starved and hungry amid the race of competition so inseparable from modern life.

There are bleeding sores of the world yet untended, and it is for consecrated lives to go and bind these wounds.

The Nursing Masque.

As so many of the affiliated Societies are taking part in the Registration Reunion, which is to take place on February 18th, we are pleased to announce that the Nursing Masque will be presented under the authority of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland.

At the meeting of the Preliminary Committee held at 431, Oxford Street, on Friday, December 2nd, good progress was made with the details of the organisation of the Nursing Masque. Mrs. Fenwick reported arrangements made in connection with the dressing of the Procession, which were approved; also that Miss F. Sleight, late Sister President, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, had kindly placed her incomparable needle at the disposal of the Committee. It was agreed that each section should be carried out in detail by a sub-committee, and ladies were appointed for this purpose. It is recognised that in the Procession of Mortals, Section 1 (Saintly Women and the Nursing Orders) and No. 3 (Nursing and the Community) will require much consideration. No. 1 will be arranged by Mrs. Fenwick and Mrs. Shuter, and No. 3 by Miss Cox-Davies, Miss Amy Hughes, Miss Musson, Miss Barton, and Mrs. Spencer, with Miss Cox-Davies as convener.

Section 2 (The Nursing Curricula for Nurses and Matrons) is in the hands of the Matrons' Council. Section 4 will be carried out by Miss Breay, and as 5 and 6 present few difficulties two Petitioners were nominated. In Section 3 there will be the following sub-sections:—1,

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