

knowledgeable person at these times of strain and anxiety.

Should any of my readers think of doing private work abroad, I should strongly recommend them to join our staff, on which the most careful attention is paid to health and comfort, and where all are treated as individuals, and not as mere nursing machines, as is so often the case when belonging to a large public body, especially when the members of it are so widely scattered. But do not imagine that owing to the latter reason the slackers and defaulters escape reproof, and quite possibly dismissal, for all are kept closely in touch with the Chief Lady Superintendent, whose far reaching personality and wide minded sympathy have now won the confidence and affection of the whole Staff, many of whom she has never met.

Of hospital work in India my knowledge is small, but I have at times been called to take special cases in hospitals. They are practically all built and more or less provided for by Government.

A nurse's training begins at once, with a responsible work and not by cleaning brasses and trying her hand on convalescents, as in England. After six months, she is generally considered fitted to take her place at intervals on the private staff, and really seems to give astonishing satisfaction. I often think it must be on the theory that "Anybody is better than Nobody." At the door of these "speedily trained" nurses we must lay the blame of the frequent kind offer of the medical officer, to remain and see the sponging done, or to return at 9 p.m. to give the hypoder injection, etc., etc. The wave of indignation which passes through the mind of a four years' trained nurse from home and quite possibly late Sister of a hospital ward!

More attention to detail seems to be required in the training of the Eurasian nurse, also very much more attention to professional etiquette, especially on two points—(a) Too much discussion of cases and doctors and work in general in public. (b) Too intimate a footing between patient and nurse.

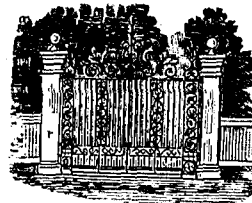
The mission trained native nurses are very much to be admired; the patience and care in training them required on the part of the Mission Hospital Matrons is second to none. Think of the rough material they work upon and the disadvantages of a foreign language in which one must be fairly advanced to give most elementary instruction. The natural lack of order and neatness and incapability to think and act independently make it difficult to turn out a native girl capable of acting methodically or in emergencies. Again, their custom of early marriage makes it almost impossible to get a girl to train long enough to acquire experience of much value. But with all these drawbacks, the Zenana Hospital Matron has cause to be very proud of the trained Indian nurse—trained, of course, only in midwifery and work for women, India being still too much under the purdah system to allow her women to nurse their male relations.

I must say, in closing, all these conclusions are drawn from my own observations, and are quite open to contradiction.

ANONYMOUS.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



The papers read at a private conference held at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on November 24th, and arranged by a Sub-Committee of the Preventive and Rescue Committee of the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland, are now published in pamphlet form at the office of the Union, Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, S.W., price 1s., or 7s. per dozen, post free.

"The Administration of the Law," a little paper read by Miss E. MacDougall to Rescue Workers at a meeting held at Lincoln by the National Union of Women Workers, refers to assaults upon, and the corruption of, children. The experience of the writer has been gained as a Southwark Diocesan worker. As the law stands, "any person who 'criminally' assaults a girl under the age of 13 is guilty of felony"; to ravish a child of that age and under 16 is merely a misdemeanour. For the first heinous crime a man may be kept in penal servitude for life, or be imprisoned for any term not exceeding two years. For the ruin of a child over 13 he cannot be imprisoned for more than two years!

Miss MacDougall gives a heart-rending picture of these poor *enciente* children, during their ordeal of prosecuting the horrible brutes who have violated them, in our Police Courts, and also of the contemptuously inadequate sentences passed by the representatives of the law.

"Early this year a girl of 14½, expecting confinement, appeared in the Central Criminal Court against a man of 45 years. He, a coloured man, pleaded "guilty." The Judge heard no evidence, gave the police no opportunity of saying there was much against the man abroad. The sentence was "six months' hard labour. Why not two years, which the law allows?"

The life of this girl is ruined and her suffering, both physical and mental, extends over many months—nay, even years. To the death there will be the reproach of the fatherless child.

The writer here points out "that the Rescue Worker finds a precious opportunity," and adds "that as Rescue Workers we can do little to alter or set right what seem to us the evils in administration, but we can ponder silently the high ideals of Christ's Law."

It is not given to every soul to burn with righteous indignation—to long for a flaming sword with which to defend the weak—but we would urge every Rescue Worker to realise the very urgent duty of resting neither night nor day in helping to awaken a sense of justice in the hearts of Judge and Jury when administering the law to the ravisher of little children. It is useless to ponder silently the high ideals of Christ's Law: "Go forth and fight the good fight in defence of these My little ones."

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