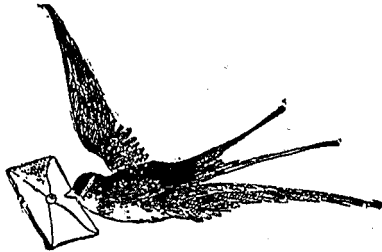


Our Foreign Letter.

NURSING IN KASHMIR.



DEAR EDITOR,

It is a very long time since I wrote to you. When I was asked to leave Shiekh Bagh in Srinagar and branch

out into village work in 1903, my heart was sad indeed. I knew not which way to turn. The next morning our clergyman came in and asked Miss Hull, who was then head of our Mission, if she had a lady she could spare to go out as far as Ranavari and do some investigation work, as he had received a certain sum of money from the State to help the poor people who lost so much, and where houses had been washed down in the flood. He being a man, and his staff men also, they could not go into the purdah houses. Miss Hull pointed to me and said, "You may have her," and he answered, "Just the one."

The first few days the work was so confusing, I did not know which way to turn, or what to do, and came back in the evening feeling I had done nothing. On the tenth day I noticed an empty house, and inquired if it were to let, and as to rent, etc. Then I spoke to Miss Hull about her suggestion that one of us should branch out, and told her that there was a small native house to let at Ranavari, and that so much of my time was taken up going backwards and forwards, and that it was not altogether nice having to eat my mid-day meal on the side of the road. It was two months before the question was settled, as the office at Lahore had to be consulted, and consent could not be gained until the plan was sanctioned in London. We secured the house, and the sum, only 3 rupees, which is just 4s. After the flood work was settled we opened a little dispensary in the house we lived in, and you can think of the size of it when it was only 2s. 6d. a week, less than a workman's cottage at home. After working two years we applied for a site just on the outside of the village. After two and a half years' negotiations it was granted, and during all that time we were gathering funds. And now, dear Editor, you see how the means have been blessed in the provision of our dispensary and school, and the cottage which we workers are occupying. It all looks so simple now that it is done, but only those of us who have had the burden of raising the money and the struggle of getting bricks, stones, timber, etc., and seeing every tree sawn up, can understand the labour it has been—but a happy and pleasant duty and labour. We could not afford a contractor, as we never had enough ready cash in hand to advance. So the work had to be done in sections. The inside is now in a very unfinished state, but we believe and trust in time the funds will come in to finish it all off. Our great aim this year is to get

six iron spring mattress bedsteads, and some fixtures done.

Our work is with the common ailments of life. Anything we cannot attend to we always send into Srinagar to Dr. Neve or to Miss Louder, M.D., at the State Hospital. A trained nurse can do a good deal to help the people to be clean, and attend to bad, dirty, inflamed eyes, rheumatism, cuts, burns, etc. It may interest you, however, to hear what can be done by steady perseverance. I feel sure some day this will be a great work. One must sow and plant and another will reap; each one has his or her duty to do, and if that is done faithfully, no matter how small it may be, it will in time bring its own reward. Is there no trained sister at home who could come out to this work for His sake. The climate is beautiful. Our Society is so badly off they cannot send us help.

Yours sincerely,

E. M. NEWMAN.

Kashmir, India.

Echoes of the Nursing Pageant.

We thank the *American Journal of Nursing* for its never failing, courageous support to nurses in this country in their desperate fight with privilege and prejudice. It says of our Pageant:—

"The full text of the programme of the pageant and Masque on the evolution of trained nursing given by the British nurses has been received in this country, together with the booklet of beautiful and eloquent lines written by Miss Mollett. The whole thing was a notable and wonderfully beautiful dramatic presentation of the history of nursing, and we are sure it will be a revelation to our members when it is repeated at Cologne. The purpose of the pageant was to aid the cause of State registration by appealing to the imagination through eye, ear, and intellect, and one cannot read the beautiful words and see the imposing pictures without wondering how even the most stolid and resistant nature can reject the appeal of a high, ethical and spiritual demand so nobly presented. But monied interests are deaf to all appeal, and it is therefore not surprising to learn that, during the whole time that the pageant was in preparation, the sordid employers of British nurses represented by the opposition to State registration used every possible device of intimidation, misrepresentation, gossip, and backbiting in order to make it, if possible, a failure. Damaging statements were given to the press; it was rumoured and re-rumoured that Miss Nightingale was to be represented in person; nurses and matrons in anti-registration hospitals were discouraged or even forbidden to have anything to do with it, and up to the last moment malicious attacks were made upon the promoters of the pageant. That all this unmanly tactic failed of its purpose is clear from the accounts in the daily papers of the great beauty and impressiveness of the dramatic presentation."

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