

## The Nurses' Missionary League.

This week, from the 4th to 11th July, the Nurses' Missionary League are enjoying their first Summer Camp at Selsey-on-Sea. The purpose of these reunions is to provide a holiday which will also be an opportunity for inspiration and help in the Christian life, and to consider the work of the League as a missionary agency, and a bond between all Christian Nurses.

The following members have sailed for the Mission Field:—

Miss A. J. Gauntlett (trained at the London Hospital) for Persia, under C.M.S. (to work with Dr. Emmeline Stuart).

Miss G. Webb (trained at Chester Infirmary) for Ceylon, under the W.M.M.S.

Miss Hope Bell (trained at the London Hospital) for China, under the L.M.S.

*Nurses Near and Far*, the organ of the League, contains this month many interesting papers from workers in the mission field. That of Miss Jacqueline C. Rutgers (who was an eloquent speaker at our International Nursing Congress in London, in 1909), on "Nursing Under Dutch Missionary Societies," is specially instructive.

Miss Rutgers responds to an invitation to give information about the openings for Nurses under the Dutch Missionary Societies. She writes:—

"In our colonies there are working nine Dutch Societies, and some foreign ones. Of these last, the Moravian Brethren do all the missionary work in Surinam (Dutch Guiana, S. America), and they are doing splendid work among the lepers in that colony. The "Rheinische Missions, Gesellschaft," has over one hundred missionaries in the isle of Sumatra. They also do medical work, and have a large hospital with two doctors, and four deaconesses. The Salvation Army has a hospital and dispensary in the town of Semarang (Java), with one doctor and two nurses.

"Of the nine Dutch societies only three have nurses in their service at this moment; two others are organising their medical mission, and I suppose it will not be very long before they also ask for nurses.

"There are four different kinds of posts to which nurses can be sent in the Dutch Mission field.

"First, we have the hospital work. The Societies who employ nurses have each one large hospital. Each of these hospitals has two European nurses, two of them have each two doctors, the other only one. In these hospitals the nurses have to do the housekeeping, the supervision of the wards, of the out-patient department, and of the operating theatre; also they are charged with the

practical training of the native staff. Theoretical lessons are generally given by the doctors. As a rule only fully-trained nurses are taken; they must have a certificate from their training school, as the government gives a grant to the hospital for each certificated nurse. (There is no State registration in Holland or the colonies; the certificate of the training school is sufficient, even in some cases of a foreign training school). In those hospitals the regular evangelistic work is done by a missionary and his native teachers, who have at all times free access to the wards, though, of course, such work by the nurses, either European or native, is not excluded, whenever they can find time for it. Still, they are never expected to take regular services or do any of the regular religious teaching.

"Besides these hospitals there is an ever increasing number of dispensaries in the villages. They have room for 20 to 60 in-patients, and an out-patient department. In our Mission (Dutch Reformed Church) those dispensaries are in the care of male native nurses, married, living near or in the dispensary. For the women they have the help of one or two women nurses from the larger hospital. They are under the supervision of the director of the Central Hospital, and send serious cases on to the hospital. Two other societies have or are going to have one European nurse at the head of each of those dispensaries. These nurses must have had their three years' training, and they must know something of dispensary and of microscopic work. Generally these dispensaries are in the neighbourhood of a missionary, and there will be regular inspection by a medical missionary. These posts are not as responsible and difficult as those in the larger hospitals, there never being operations or serious cases; also they are not a training place for native nurses, only trained native nurses being sent there from the central hospitals.

"A third sphere of work is leper nursing. Under the Dutch societies we have not yet got nurses for this work. But the medical missionary of the Baptist Mission is going to found a leper colony on the north coast of Java, in the neighbourhood of his own hospital, and two nurses will be wanted to live in the colony and look after the work there. This will be a difficult post, as the colony will have room for nearly 300 sufferers and their families. It has pleased her Majesty our Queen, to make this work possible, by giving to the foundation of this colony a large sum of money, which her colonial subjects brought together at the birth of the Princess Juliana.

"Lastly, there is another kind of post open to nurses, where they are sent out practically to do doctor's work, quite independently of any doctor—only calling in a native doctor (trained at the Government Medical School), or a European Government doctor for serious cases. It is very wearying and trying for the nerves to do such work, for which you are not trained, and which you can never do as it ought to be done, and I should earnestly advise nurses, never to take such work as a permanent arrangement.

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