

when they went out thick veiled. The only exemptions from the rule of Purdah were the Pathans; from the nature of their lives the seclusion of the women was impossible, but the amount of immorality was indescribable, so that it was really difficult to decide which was the worse—the freedom of the Pathan women, or the Purdah system, with all its attendant evils.

Miss Cooke said that one of the greatest factors in the conversion of Moslems was the lives of the Christian missionaries. At a great conference among Moslems, at Lucknow, one convert after another bore testimony to this fact. In conclusion, she asked: "Is there any work in the world which gives such opportunities as our own for bearing testimony for the Master?"

WHY WE SHOULD DO IT.

Miss I. Frodsham, trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and also working in the Punjab, discussing why nurses should do missionary work, said that the longing to help was prompted in various ways. With some the desire grew up with them; they could scarcely tell when it began. Others were influenced by hearing, reading, and knowing of the condition of the women of the East. They were moved by a love of humanity; the physical need of women appealed when they heard of the ignorant hakeems of the East, and of the witch doctors of Africa; and they felt they must consecrate their gift of nursing to God.

At the present time, in every part of India, people were looking and longing for something—they did not quite know what—and were endeavouring to purify their own religions. Here was opportunity. If God opened the way, how glad we were to respond to it. The compelling force was that which prompted St. Paul. "The love of Christ constraineth (grips) us."

The best judges of missionaries were the natives themselves, and they showed their knowledge in the apt nicknames which they bestowed. Thus, one missionary was called "the loving Sahib."

Miss Frodsham concluded, by referring to the responsibility which love brings. "Feed my sheep"; and especially to the responsibility of the nursing profession for work and prayer, that power of intercession so important and so little used. "Draw through all failure to the perfect flower."

CALLS FOR SERVICE.

Miss Richardson then announced four urgent calls for fully trained nurses for service in the mission field, one for a nurse to work in Sierra Leone under Bishop Walmsley; another for a Matron for a hospital at Pekin; and lastly for two nurses for work in Cairo. Of the last-mentioned requirement, a letter just received said "the need is desperate." Miss Richardson will be glad to supply information to nurses desiring to know more about the posts. The passage and outfit money are ready: it is the offers of service which are needed.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The afternoon session took the form of a Conversation when Mrs. J. C. Hoare and Mrs. McAdam Eccles acted as hostesses. Little tables were scattered about the room, round which nurses grouped themselves for tea and talk. Many were glad of the opportunity of last words with the sailing members, and with the members present from many parts of the foreign field. During the afternoon Miss M. Macfee, Miss Saumarez Smith and Miss D. Thompson sang delightfully, and addresses were given by Miss E. Horne of the Universities Mission to Central Africa, Miss McCracken from Tangier, and Dr. G. W. Guinness from China.

Miss Horne, who has recently been working up country at Masasi, where there are two hospitals, one for men, with fourteen beds, and one for women with five or six, where, nevertheless, there are sometimes eleven or twelve patients, exclusive of babies, referred to the difficulty in getting medicines administered regularly to out-patients owing to their lack of any idea of time. The endeavour was made to get the patients to pay something for their medicines; payment was generally in kind, in flour, eggs, &c.; when one grateful patient brought an offering of fried flies she thought it expedient to intimate that something else would be more acceptable. The hospitals were built of bamboo, with mud floors and grass roofs. The medical work was good, and, when they had a doctor, there would be plenty of surgical work also.

Miss McCracken, describing the work in Tangier, said that many patients unfortunately came too late to be helped physically. Cataracts and different kinds of growths were numerous. One cataract patient was so delighted that his sight was restored that he collected all the old blind people he could find and brought them to the doctor.

Many of the Christian converts had endured great persecutions, but had stood true. In the heathen world the fight against principalities and powers was a very real one.

Dr. Guinness referred to the fact that every fourth woman in the world is a Chinese, he also spoke highly in appreciation of the noble qualities of the Chinese character. Speaking of the persecution endured by native Christians, he told of one man who during the Boxer riots was suspended by his thumbs, and then, after an hour's agony, was asked to renounce his religion. Because he would not do so he was cruelly beaten and his house burnt down. When Dr. Guinness met him eighteen months afterwards, and asked him if he had found it worth while, his reply, as his face lighted up, was "Worth while! I would go through it all again to-morrow for Jesus' sake."

The speaker also described the sad lot of Chinese women and the scant welcome awaiting girl babies ("Another guest has come to my house" is the Chinese way of referring to the birth of a daughter). Nevertheless, Nurse Dives, of the China

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