

Mission owes her much." Her great gift for languages was highly valued by Bishop Steere, who sought her help and criticisms in all his translations; her afternoons were devoted to visiting the Arab ladies in the town; she filled the arduous post of housekeeper in the Bishop's House at Mkunazini, which bore a strong resemblance to a hotel because of the many comings and goings; and her "spare moments"—we should imagine they were few—were devoted to sketching, and her brush vividly and powerfully portrayed the glory of the gorgeous Eastern colouring.

The following very interesting letter appears in the journal of the Nurses' Missionary League from Rachel A. Williams, resident at Bangalore, on the "Training of Indian Nurses." It pleads for standards, and will arouse the heartiest sympathy of those of us who, against much interested opposition and ignorance, are always striving after better conditions of nursing:—

At the Conference of the Indian Medical Missionary Association it was almost unanimously agreed by doctors and nurses present that an effort should be made to raise the standard of nursing in our Mission Hospitals. I know that the standard proposed by the Nursing Sub-Committee appointed to consider the matter, and draw up a scheme, is thought to be rather too high at present for some; but from what I can remember no one present considered that anything less than *three years' training* was sufficient. And at the Annual Conference of the Association of Nursing Superintendents of India, and Trained Nurses' Association of India, which was held in Calcutta in November last, and which represented Civil and Mission Hospitals in many parts of India, from north to south, this point was emphasized. True, many difficulties in this connection were discussed, and the most hopeful among us cannot expect them to be removed yet, but one thing stood out clearly, namely, that no one ought to be granted a certificate giving her the status of "Trained Nurse" unless she had had three years' training.

* * *

I believe three years' training is compulsory in all Government Hospitals where Hindu women are trained. Are we to allow the non-Christian nurses of the future to be more efficient than our Christians? To me that seems a serious question. And while we out here make new efforts to overcome the difficulties which any change is liable to cause, we need the prayers of our fellow nurses and others at home that we may not be discouraged if we are not successful at first, and that we may in due time succeed. Also that eventually, through their increased efficiency, our Christian Nurses may be leaders in their profession. We are agreed that Indian Nurses are wanted for evangelistic work, as well as for nursing, and the better equipped

they are in their profession, the greater will be their opportunities, and the wider their influence, in the days when 'nursing' will be recognised in this land as an honourable profession for Indian women."

Miss Hurlston, Sister in Charge of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Muirfield House, Gullane, N.B., is to be congratulated on the excellent results obtained by the Gullane Section of the Red Cross Society, to whom she has been delivering a course of Home Nursing, at the recent examination.

The examination was conducted by Dr. Kenmure Melville, examiner for St. Andrew's Ambulance Association. Fourteen out of a possible fifteen members passed, about three-quarters of the class gaining first-class honours.

Miss Hurlston made it plain to the class that she only proposed teaching them the little things that every woman should know how to do in case of illness in her own home until she can obtain a doctor's advice, specially emphasising that drugs should never be prescribed, and the risks run by so doing. Instruction was given in the elements of hygiene in relation to infectious diseases, on bandaging, and on the use and administration of simple remedies frequently ordered by doctors. The work of the Section is done under the supervision of the Medical Officer.

The "Overstrain of Nurses," which is to be widely discussed at the Nursing Congress at Cologne, is a question of vital importance at the moment, and we note this week nurses and overwork finds publicity in quite a number of papers. The *Liverpool Courier* ends up some slashing criticisms on the strain, especially in Poor Law institutions, where nurses are "rushed to death," with the pertinent question: "It is regrettable that while the medical men, quite properly, organise and agitate for their own rights, they are never heard—in public, at all events—asking that their necessary colleagues, the nurses, shall be treated with more consideration. What do they say to this? Will they tell the community what is to be done to put our hospitals on a decently efficient footing?"

The *Spectator* and the *Labour Leader* wonder how it is that the health of Peter the nurse is exploited in hospitals to benefit Paul the patient!

We are not surprised that this point of view presents itself. It seems quite senseless to make one set of people ill in order to nurse another set back to health.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)