

At the recent Annual General Meeting of St. George's Hospital Nursing Association, Bombay, the Chairman, the Honble. Mr. J. P. Chrystal, said the Nursing Staff has been well maintained. . . . The committee regret the loss of Miss Walters, their Assistant Lady Superintendent for many years, who has gone to the important post of Lady Superintendent of the Civil Hospital at Karachi. The very large number of our old nurses now holding superior appointments all over India is a gratifying testimony of the high position which St. George's Hospital holds as a training school for nurses."

The Chairman, in referring to his approaching retirement, also paid a warm tribute of appreciation to the work of Col. Collie, who, as Physician in charge of the Hospital, had placed his high administrative abilities at the service of the Association, and most ungrudgingly, in all matters connected with the welfare of the nurses. Col. Collie, in expressing his thanks for the reference made to his work, said he had seen the gradual growth and development of Nursing in this Hospital and, from it, in India. St. George's Hospital may rightly claim the position of being the Nursery of Nursing in India. In the early 80's, through the initiative of this Association, the first fully trained Nurses were brought out, consisting of trained Sisters belonging to the All Saints community with a few highly trained lay Nurses; amongst the latter was Miss Denham (now Sister Caroline), a most able woman with high organising ability and a broad-minded, sympathetic nature. The Association was fortunate in securing at the outset a band of highly capable workers from this religious community, and it was due to the energy, enterprise and self-sacrifice of these five or six pioneers that nursing in India has really developed to what it is. Beginning with these few trained Sisters and Nurses from the University College Hospital, London, the community gradually got the young women of India to join with a view to training. Few of us are in a position to compare the conditions of to-day with those of thirty years ago, but from this school have gone forth Nurses to fill many important charges in India, Burma and the Colonies. Our private Nurses have carried with them the benefits of their profession not only throughout this Presidency, but to all parts of India from the Himalayas to Ceylon, to Sind and the confines of Afghanistan, to Persia and East Africa, and many an invalid has appreciated, and perhaps owed his or her

life, to the services of our Nurses on voyages home. All this development is due to the enterprise of this Association, the members of which have never spared themselves. There is one point which the Association might take up, viz., the fact that Nurses trained here are not considered eligible for the Army Nursing Service. He did not know the reasons for this supposed disability, but he considered that, in training, our Nurses are the equal of any Nurses trained at home, and they possess in addition a knowledge of tropical diseases and a familiarity with the language and customs of the natives which enhance their value. Within the past two years the Bombay Presidency Nursing Association has come into existence, and one of its primary objects is to raise the whole standard of Nursing in this country by the institution of a Central Examination Board, and by laying down certain conditions as to education and training in the affiliated training schools; its ulterior object, it is hoped, will be to ensure or provide a staff of highly trained women, who will come to the aid of the State in times of war and pestilence. As St. George's Hospital trains Europeans, this Association might take up the question of admitting their Nurses to the Army Nursing Service. There is one point to which he wished to refer, and that was the fortunate position the Association was in, in possessing a Lady Superintendent like Miss Mill; during the eight years they had worked together he had learned to appreciate highly this lady's judgment, tact and patience, often under circumstances which caused much anxiety and worry. It was by no means an easy task to govern a community of 60 or 70 young women! He thanked the Committee for cordially accepting and favourably considering suggestions he had made from time to time in the interests of the Association. He particularly wished to thank the Hon. Mr. Chrystal, himself formerly one of our many able Secretaries, for his appreciative remarks and those present for endorsing them.

The nurses throughout India owe a special debt of gratitude to Col. Collie, as he was specially instrumental in helping to secure the Central Examining Board.

WELCOME HELP.

The President acknowledges with thanks a cheque for £2 2s., most kindly sent to the funds of the Society for the State Registration of Nurses by Miss Christina Forrest, of Bournemouth.

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