

Central Midwives Board. The general sick nurses had all been trained for at least three years in an approved general hospital, followed by six months' special training in district nursing. They did not send "any kind" of nurse to nurse the sick poor. It was not possible for her to have had only experience in a small cottage hospital or special hospital, or a few months in a home, as her only preparation for her work, as so many so-called nurses had. As a Queen's nurse she must necessarily be really fully trained with a training designed to make her competent, resourceful, unselfish, able to understand and obey the doctor's wishes and to use the best methods to help the patients.

The work of the Institute was appreciated by those for whose need it existed, and she frequently received letters of thanks and appreciation from patients, but there was room for expansion in many ways, the subscription list was not half long enough—extra nurses were required to prevent the breakdown of willing workers. Free passes on the tramway would be a great boon. The Institute was run much too cheaply. Nurses' salaries were rising everywhere, and those who confined themselves, as they did, to the Queen's minimum scale, which were very good salaries in 1887, were finding it impossible to fill vacancies. There was a crying need for a good district room, and she (Miss Gaskell) most earnestly begged someone to come forward and give them one. In conclusion, Miss Gaskell made an earnest appeal for interest and support.

We very much hope the Bath Nurses' Institute, aiming as it does at efficiency and justice all round, will receive the support from the public which it richly deserves.

We hear on several sides that one of the reasons for the difficulty experienced in obtaining Queen's Nurses for service in rural districts is that many nurses fear to bicycle owing to the number of motors on the roads, and the extent of many of the districts is so great that they cannot cover the distance by walking.

PRIVATE NURSING.

The report of the Lady Superintendent of Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association, Mrs. Davies, is always exceedingly interesting and well done. That just issued states that in the year that has passed the dominant difficulty has been the inability to cope with the demand for nurses. This shortage is, we are told, detrimental to the interests of the Association, but the home authorities have experienced the greatest difficulty in obtaining the requisite number of suitable nurses. There is no

question of the popularity of the English-trained nurse; her reputation is established, and she is in constant requisition.

In view of the fact that the fees charged by the Association do not cover the cost of the nurses of the high quality demanded, an increase of the standard rates has been found necessary. There have been 21 resignations during the year, 12 on completion of contract, 5 due to marriage, 4 on medical advice, and we regret to note, 1 death.

To meet the objection of nurses out of India to bind themselves for so long a period as five years, a modification of the contract to one of not less than three years has been agreed to on condition that three-fifths of the full fare only be given for the passage out and back, and that in the event of a Nursing Sister completing five years' service, a refund of the other two-fifths be handed to her at the expiration of her service.

A new Branch, the inauguration of which has been delayed on account of the difficulty in obtaining well trained nurses, was to be opened at the beginning of the New Year. The Branch is designed to meet the needs of the large European community in Hyderabad, Secunderabad, and Bolarum.

Of Miss Pritchard, Lady Superintendent of the Bengal Branch, Mrs. Davies writes:—"Miss Pritchard, Lady Superintendent, during the past year has continued to give proof of her marked capabilities in the control of her Branch and the management of her nursing staff, and her local committee express themselves as altogether pleased with her supervision."

Mrs. Davies points out in conclusion that the possibilities of the Nursing Association are great, its sphere of usefulness can be enlarged indefinitely, but to fulfil the designs of its promoters more financial assistance is required.

FROM OVER SEAS.

Sister Agnes Karll writes that there are twenty nurses at the College in Leipsic this winter, and that Sister Agnes Meyer, who has just returned from a 15 months' visit to America, where she has worked with Miss Maxwell at the Presbyterian Hospital, New York, and Miss Sara Parsons at the Boston General, and taken various courses at Teachers' College with Miss Nutting, has been giving a course of lectures. Sister Meyer cannot say enough of all the kindness she has received from her American colleagues, and Sister Karll reports that the instruction she has given to the nurses at Leipsic is a splendid result of her American studies.

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