

desirable things, it was character that really counted the most, and this was far more recognised at the present day than it used to be. This was brought out when references were applied for. "What sort of a person is she"? matters more now than "What degree has she taken"? Many could teach a child Latin who could never lead the child.

Mrs. Sturge spoke on "The Result of all true Character Building," and illustrated her remarks with the story of Martha and Mary. It was, she said, easier to do than to be. Some people were so aggressively anxious to do good to others that one felt one would rather remain bad than be done good to by them. Other people there were who made the place fragrant by just being what they were.

The morning session closed with intercession.

AFTERNOON CONVERSAZIONE.

The afternoon was devoted to a *Conversazione*, and the room was transformed with little tea tables, gay with flowers, that were dotted about, and which were soon surrounded with groups of happy nurses exchanging confidences and experiences. Miss Richardson and Miss Macfee were as usual indefatigable in looking after the comfort of their guests and in welcoming new comers. The hostesses were Mrs. Weir (Bart's and Korea), Miss Hope Bell (The London and China), Miss F. E. Campbell (Guy's and S. India), Miss Carswell (King's College and Korea), Miss I. Tait (St. Bart's and China.)

Miss Harris recited "Prince" and "A Song of England." The latter was particularly charming, and both were most effectively rendered.

During the afternoon there were addresses from various speakers. Miss Campbell gave an interesting account of the "Sphere of a Missionary Nurse in South India." She said that there, a nurse must be prepared to do many things that in England would not be in her province. The line which divided the nurse's work from the doctors' often vanished altogether. She described how the women when in labour would be removed to the cattle shed, and they were confined amidst all the filth. She herself had to dig a channel to divert the excreta from the cows running towards her patient. The mortality among both mothers and babies was something appalling. The diet for the mother was a mixture of red pepper, flour, melted butter and water. She was kept in the dark for a whole month; indeed, for the better classes who could afford the time the period was three months. She described how, when a case of pneumonia refused a diet of curry and rice, no attempt was made to provide her with any other food, and she would have died if the nurse had not come to the rescue.

These people were most anxious to learn, though the instructions given were diametrically opposed to all their customs.

Miss Campbell wore an Indian costume while delivering her very interesting address.

Miss Hope Bell, who wore a Chinese costume, spoke on work in China. She described how

two old women came several miles in a wheelbarrow to ask that they might be baptised. On questioning them she found they knew absolutely nothing of Christianity, but they gave as their reason that they wished to be like Dr. —, who was a Christian.

She mentioned with deep regret the recent death of Nurse Pocock in Central China, who had died of scarlet fever on the eve of starting for new work which involved great sacrifice.

EVENING SESSION.

Lt.-Col. Carless, M.S., F.R.C.S., R.A.M.C., presided over the evening Meeting. Dr. Crichton Miller, in moving the adoption of the Report, said that he considered that a nurse who had no message, was nothing short of a tragedy. They had a continuous and uninterrupted influence over the men, and the majority of the men were always ready to be helped. Their influence must be used with tact, or the cause might be made a fool of. He instanced a nurse whom he knew, who was most reserved, and would probably have died before she would have suggested reading a chapter to a patient, yet it was impossible for her to be in a ward without her presence having an almost electrical effect. She was a direct reflection of God's countenance. He urged the greater use of the Study Circles.

The Chairman spoke of the need of controlled feelings. He had known nurses who were absolutely callous. On the other hand, there were dear ladies in the Voluntary Hospitals who absolutely spoilt the men by their uncontrolled sympathy.

There were two ways of doing things. A gracious way and a rough and ready way. More could be done by grace and kindness than by any attempt to ram religion down the throats of the patients. Patients sized up their nurses and doctors pretty accurately.

Miss Catherine Ironside, M.B., spoke on "The Sphere of the Missionary Nurse in Persia." She said that the work in Persia differed from that of many other Missions, as it was a purely Mahomedan land; being under the British Government made all the difference. It was remarkable that in non-Christian lands there was never any scientific knowledge of surgery that had not been obtained from Christians. In Persia they had to contend against deep-rooted ideas and prejudices. Decisions as to the choice of the doctor, &c., were made by the casting of lots. Their diseases were in one of two classifications—hot diseases and cold diseases. If one ordered medicine or food in the wrong category one's influence was correspondingly weakened. Dr. Ironside pleaded for more nurses and doctors. There were so many operations that ought to be done. There was so much unnecessary suffering and loss of life, and the need of the country was tremendous.

The bookstall, presided over by Miss Macfee, exhibited many new and interesting missionary works, many of which were at very moderate prices. It appeared to be well patronised by the members.

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