

CHINESE MALE NURSES.

Considerable interest was aroused at the Annual Meeting of the Nurses' Missionary League by the address given by Miss Hope-Bell, of Hankow, who, during her work as a member of the London Missionary Society, has done good service in the training of Chinese men as nurses.

In a paper which she read as President of the Nurses' Association of China at an Annual Conference held in Peking, Miss Hope-Bell said:—

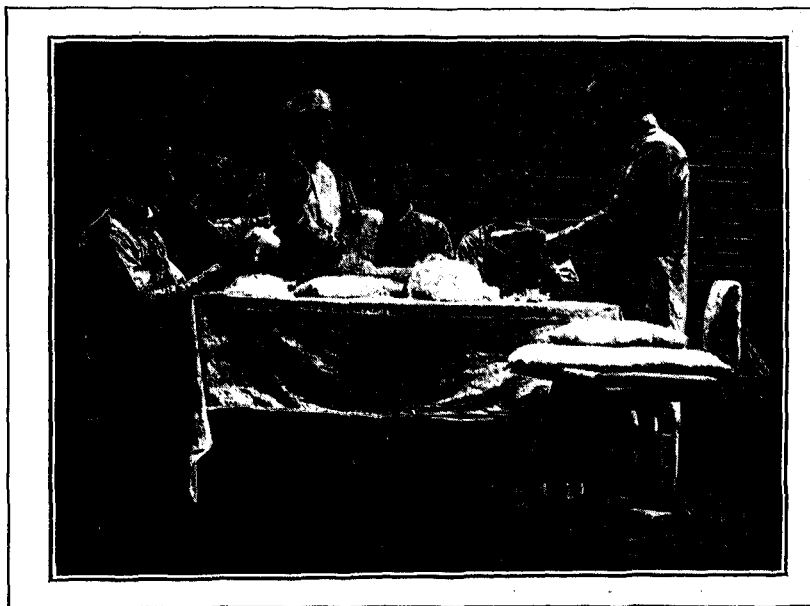
It is becoming increasingly evident that trained Chinese men nurses have come to stay. Some people have looked upon them but as temporary expedients, only to be made use of

are becoming experienced. This leakage of useful workers should not be found to any extent in our training-schools for men. Of the educated youths who are taking up the work now-a-days, the majority are prepared to make nursing of the sick their life work, and in that fact lies the possibility of getting really experienced as well as skilled and capable men for posts of responsibility later on.

On arrival in China I found myself in a hospital which had been at work for forty years without a Matron. One or two ladies had, at various times, given help with the linen, but the "glorified coolies" who worked in the wards had never had any instruction in the nursing treatment of the sick. . . .

In commencing work the greatest possible

help to me was a dummy patient, and he is still invaluable. It is possible to buy in Canada (and possibly elsewhere also) a life-size dummy which can be inflated with air when wanted for use. But one which is equally effective, and much less expensive, can be made from calico, and stuffed with sand and sawdust. A mixture of one part sand and two parts sawdust gives a weight equal to that of a medium-sized man; and for certain classes, particularly when the lifting and carrying of patients is being taught, the more weighty dummy is better than the lighter manikin filled with air. It is



A SPLINT-PADDING CLASS.

until such time as the better education of women, and progressive changes in etiquette, should allow of women nurses caring for men patients, as in the homelands.

But why should they not be found permanently in our hospitals for men? Surely men are physically better fitted to lift and turn men patients than are Chinese young women. And they are proving to be as tender-hearted and as gentle-handed as their sisters, and equally capable in every way.

At present, experienced women nurses are few. Hospitals for women are staffed mainly with girls, the majority of whom marry as soon as the certificate is gained, and so disappear from the ranks of the profession just when they

convenient to have "the patient" covered with batiste, or other thin mackintosh material, but expenditure on this is not necessary in a sunny climate, where it is possible to put him out in the sun to dry after he has had a blanket bath or a hot pack.

My probationers at first found it difficult to apply the lessons learnt on the dummy to their work in the wards. But this difficulty quickly disappeared, he was taken seriously, and requests for demonstrations (to meet particular needs) became frequent. He soon, therefore, fulfilled his first object, *i.e.*, that of showing the hospital staff that the new Matron did know something about the nursing of the sick, and could give them a tip or two.

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