

badly wanted a staircase, and they had been hoping that he would fall down on the existing one. They got their staircase. In Bangkok they had paying patients in a private nursing home, many being bad cases of typhoid, as the water supply in the compounds was what Chinamen had washed in.

Then there were many insects and bad cases of malaria as mosquitos bred in the swamps, and the water on the rice fields. In Cyprus there were many accident cases. The Greeks were free with their knives and stabbing was often the result.

In Uganda where she had been for the last five-and-a-half years they had a nice hospital, and the patients were mostly officials and planters. To go about at night was rather adventurous, as there were snakes about and sometimes leopards, but there was plenty of labour, and the natives were very clever at killing snakes, so a black boy with a lamp went on ahead.

Young men and women going out to Uganda were thankful to know that they could be nursed if they were ill. Not infrequently she had thirty patients with temperatures of 105½ and 106 deg. in the evening. The natives were a real help in nursing, and many a young man owed his life to the care of natives.

Miss Pratt urged the necessity for the best nurses in overseas work.

#### NOTE OF WARM APPRECIATION.

The note of warm appreciation of the work of the nurses was struck by Mr. Gershom Stewart, M.P., who moved the re-election of the retiring members of the Executive Committee and the Hon. Officers. Health, he said, was priceless, and he told the story of an old gentleman, who, when asked whether he would rather be a healthy knave or an ailing saint, replied: "You should not put such an alternative before me."

The speaker told of the recrudescence of plague in Hong Kong, and said that the magnificent services rendered by the nurses, some of whom, alas, succumbed to the disease, was beyond all praise. They had left an indelible memory and example for those who came after.

In regard to funds. If the Association wanted money it could get it. Nurses might be angels but they were also human beings, and they ought to live comfortably, have sufficient to live upon and to enable them to subscribe to a Pension Fund. They liked to be free and independent women.

The proceedings concluded with votes of thanks to the Princess for her presence, and to the Duchess of Norfolk for the use of the house, after which tea was served in an adjoining room. We commend this Association's imperial work to patriotic people, and also to our very best nurses. Both should find satisfaction in supporting it. M. B.

## COLLEGE CONFERENCE.

The Conference convened by the College of Nursing, Ltd., and held on the evening of June 17th and the morning of June 18th, at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1., dealt with two subjects, "How to attract the most suitable women to the Nursing Profession," and "District Nursing."

#### ABLE SPEECH BY DR. JANET LANE-CLAYPON.

The best speech of the Conference was undoubtedly that of Dr. Janet Lane-Claypon, Dean of the Household and Domestic Science Department, King's College for Women. She clearly showed that the underlying principles governing the nursing profession applied to most professions, and not exclusively to our own. Those who had studied the history of professions would know that the women who first entered them were of outstanding character, above the average, the work was hard, and the inducements were few. They opened the door, and then the average women came in. Then, unless a profession put up a fairly high standard it fell into disrepute. Most of those opened to women were already organised by men, and they, therefore, had to reach the average standard already set, but, so far, nursing education had not been standardised, and a standard had yet to be defined in relation to three points, the standard of admission, the standard of training, and the outlets after training. It was useless to define one without paying attention to the others.

The standard of admission was very important; there should, she thought, be an entrance examination, and a fairly high standard should be put up. It was a curious feature of human nature that if a thing was made difficult people wanted to do it. If it was made easy, they would not look at it. Exception was sometimes taken to examinations, but what could they be replaced by? You could not ascertain otherwise what a person might have of intelligence. She considered that those admitted to the entrance examination should have been educated up to 18 years of age, or they would not have learnt how to work, and how to take things in, and you would not therefore, be able to develop the profession along professional lines. The question of training overlapped with that of outlet, and in defining the training, future outlooks should be considered.

Dr. Lane-Claypon considered that neither the medical, nor the nursing professions, have so far laid sufficient stress on preventive work, and that very few members of either knew anything about the normal baby. If these subjects, together with social economics and general sanitation, were studied when a girl left school, the gap before she entered a hospital for training would be filled up, and a course might be arranged, covering the whole period, which would be recognised as qualifying for Health appointments

The representative body of the British Medical Association last Saturday passed a resolution deprecating the voluntary disclosure of professional secrets without the patient's consent.

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