

papers, would see that almost every day a pedlar was taken. They arrived at results which were quite staggering.

Opium was manufactured mainly in India. Its manufacture was a monopoly, and every cent of profit went to the Government, and it encouraged the cultivation of poppies, which were sent to the Government factories. About 5 tons of opium would supply the legitimate trade annually; 1,300 tons were exported, the opium being disposed of by the Government through auction sales.

Miss La Motte emphasised the fact that it is the producer who sets the pace. They might, and did, have excellent laws as to the sale of dangerous drugs in America. These controlled the legitimate sale, the rest of the opium was sold by the underground practice, which was possible because of over-production—production carried on in the name of the British Government.

In India alone there were 17,000 drug shops. In Hong Kong the Government sold the privilege of keeping opium dens to the highest bidder. Two other countries produced opium—Persia and Turkey—but Great Britain set the pace.

The revenue from the opium trade was extremely high. In Singapore 50 per cent. was derived from it.

Miss La Motte begged her hearers to use their influence to get over-production stopped. The only way was to go straight to the source. In America they were helpless because they could not control the supply. From Mexico and from Canada smugglers entered the country, and they felt badly about it. But the British were not helpless. She pleaded for the co-operation of this country with America in the suppression of the trade.

She spoke of a meeting which is to be held in the Central Hall, Westminster, on April 5th, in relation to this matter, information concerning which can be obtained from Rev. E. J. Dukes, 2, Bethune Avenue, Friern Barnet, N.II.

Major Rigg, Chairman of the hospital, said he was delighted to have had the opportunity of listening to Miss La Motte's address. The opium trade was a blot on the escutcheon of the Government of British India. No State had the right to raise its revenue from the sins of its people. It was the price of blood, and we must have absolutely clean hands, a point of view which found wide acceptance with the members of the Matrons' Council present. He concluded by expressing his pleasure at the opportunity of saying these few words.

In conversation with Miss La Motte after her arresting speech we incidentally suggested that as Nurses come into constant touch with the ravages of the drugging vice, it might be a question to be brought before the International Council of Nurses. Miss Grace Fairley (Canada), who was present, approved this suggestion. As the Trained Nurses' Association of India is affiliated to the International, we suggest they discuss this "murder trade" at their national meetings.

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Annual General Meeting of the N.U.T.N. was held at 12, Buckingham Street, Strand, on Saturday, February 18th, 1922, Miss Marsters in the Chair.

After the usual business, a very interesting discussion took place on the position of nurses under the Unemployment Insurance Act and a superannuation scheme as an alternative. There was a unanimous opinion in favour of a superannuation scheme, which would be of greater benefit to nurses than the Unemployment Insurance Act, the latter being totally unsuited to their requirements; and it was felt that employers and employed would gladly contribute to such a scheme, though it was considered that the existing elderly nurse should not be overlooked and should be assisted if possible. It was pointed out that nurses who are no longer young are the cause of a certain amount of unemployment, as they find it difficult to obtain work and are apt to undersell the market.

Tea and social chat brought the proceedings to a close.

MISS FRY'S BEQUEST.

Will members of the N.U.T.N. please note that a grant from Miss Fry's bequest will be available in June for the relief of members who may be in need of temporary assistance.

Applications for grant must be made on form to be obtained from their Branch Secretary, to whom they must be returned, duly completed, not later than during the last week in March.

Applications and information will be regarded as strictly confidential.

E. NICHOLLS,
Organising Secretary.

TEMPORARY NURSES FOR INDIA.

The Secretary of State for India makes the following announcement:—

Nurses are required immediately for temporary service in the grade of Staff Nurse, with British troops in India. Applicants should be fully trained nurses between the ages of 27 and 35. Midwifery qualifications, *i.e.*, a certificate of the Central Midwives' Board, and further practical experience in midwifery are required, and the contract will include liability to serve in family hospitals.

Pay will be at the rate of Rs.250 per mensem. Engagement will be for six months, extensible at the option of the Government of India to one year.

No gratuity is payable on completion of service, but free passage both ways is given. Outfit allowance of £20 (or £25 in the case of those who have not previously served with a Military Nursing Service) will be granted. Free quarters, fuel, light, and punkah pullers are allowed in addition to pay.

Enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, Military Department, India Office, Whitehall, S.W. 1, and be clearly marked "Temporary Nurses" on the top left-hand corner of the envelope. Original certificates and testimonials should not be sent.

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