

NURSING PIONEERS.

FROM THE INDIAN EMPIRE.

The need of the great Indian Empire for trained nurses has, as yet, hardly been touched. Even though there are a few Training Schools for Indian women, the majority of leaders are British nurses. It is of great interest, therefore, to know that two Indian ladies have had the enterprise to come to this country for three years' training, and are now at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, in the Euston Road, N.W., with this object. They are Miss Lavinia Mewa, from Rajputana, Northern India, who has had previous training and holds the certificate of the Bareilly Hospital, and has since been working in a big girls' school for eight years, and Miss Maula Baksh, a Mohammedan lady from Kashmir, who has been trained in midwifery at the Lady Hardinge Hospital, and also holds a diploma as a Health Visitor. When she returns to India she hopes to work first as a Senior Staff Nurse, in the Lady Reading Hospital, Simla, and to continue hospital work. She was educated first at the Jesu and Mary Convent at Simla, then by a governess at home, and later at Queen Mary's College, Lahore. She is the first Mohammedan lady to take up nursing as a profession, and owes this to the fact that she has a very broad-minded father. All the arrangements for these ladies were made in connection with the Lady Reading Fund for the Women of India by its Hon. Secretary, Col. Carey-Evans, Aide-de-Camp to the Viceroy (son-in-law of Mr. Lloyd-George). Both ladies have undertaken to serve the Fund for three years after their training, and to work for the Government. At present they seem very happy in their work and surroundings. They speak enthusiastically of the Matron (Miss G. R. Hale, R.R.C.). She is, they say, so kind, and quiet, and gentle, no one could be unhappy where she is. They are, they explain, a month old—begin their training as ordinary probationers—and have, of course, duties which they are not accustomed to perform in Indian Hospitals, but which, Miss Mewa remarked, she can understand are good for them, not only from the point of view of learning how to teach others eventually, but from that of the development of character.

It is very interesting to talk to these ladies to learn something of their outlook upon life, both in India and

here. One item of interest was that the purdah system is quickly dying out, especially among the higher classes.

We shall watch with great interest the careers of these pioneers who have shown both enterprise and courage in coming so many thousands of miles to obtain knowledge which will enable them to benefit their countrywomen.

It is the duty of Great Britain to encourage the development of efficient nursing in the Empire Overseas, by the training of women of the many races which are united in this bond. In addition, the Overseas Nursing Association has done splendid work in supplying nurses from the Mother Country to its dependencies the world over. The work of English women in our Overseas Dominions must, however, be regarded as temporary, their object being to build up Nursing Services composed of women of the countries in which they work, and then to withdraw.



MISS LAVINIA MEWA.

MISS MAULA BAKSH.

Miss E. Hay Borthwick, Senior Sister at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C., who has served the Hospital with devotion for thirty years, is about to retire on her laurels. Miss Borthwick (Sister Darker) was a cousin of the late Matron, Miss Isla Stewart, and is known to generations of students and nurses, to whom she was an example of loyalty to the Hospital. Closely associated with many eminent surgeons, she earned their sincere regard and appreciation for the skill with which she secured the well-being of their patients. She will retire to her Scottish home followed by warm good wishes from all her colleagues.

On January 8th, Lord Knutsford announced that £90,632 had been received. This, with the £80,000 from the anonymous fairy god-donor, and with Sir H. M. Mallaby-Deeley's £10,000, makes a total endowment fund of £180,000. This means an income of, say, £8,500 a year towards reducing the large annual deficit. The money poured in from all classes, rich and poor, and the gifts of the latter were greatly appreciated.

Of course, "London" nurses helped with enthusiasm, and no doubt their appeals were generously responded to.

IRISH MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

The Irish Matrons' Association are meeting on January 23rd, at the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, at 4 p.m. The most important items on the Agenda are the election of office-bearers, and the discussion of the best methods of conducting nurses' practical examinations.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)