

In these countries Malaria was, of course, the chief disease to be fought—a disease in all its various forms, in which good nursing counted for much. In those countries they had to deal with Malaria, its more formidable variety Blackwater Fever, and the less well-known fever described as Undulant.

Years ago, the Union and the Rhodesian Governments had availed themselves of the services of General Gorgas, who had so successfully dealt with the stegomyia mosquito and the attendant curse of Yellow Fever in the Isthmus of Panama. He came over to South Africa and Rhodesia, and related his experiences both by lecture and in conversation. The problem in South Africa of dealing with Malaria was more difficult than in Panama, where General Gorgas had unlimited means, a free hand, and a more or less amenable and contained population. In South Africa, where the distances were great, means were limited, and the population less well informed and spread over a vast expanse of country, circumstances were very different.

He begged to assure his audience of the welcome which any of them intending to visit Rhodesia would receive, and of the high estimation in which their profession was held, both on account of their intrinsic services, and the splendid material furnished by nurses when they came to settle down in the country as settlers' wives.

He was now actually on the look out for a Matron in one of the principal hospitals in Rhodesia, but so far had not been able to find one. It was a well paid post, and the climate was a congenial one. What was required was some one with ability to teach, who could train probationers,

In concluding, he expressed his best thanks to the President of the College and her Council for their generous hospitality, and his best wishes for the continued success of their splendid foundation.

BRITISH INDIA.

Mr. R. E. MONTGOMERY, representing the High Commissioner for India, having referred to the great need that there is in India for efficient nursing, stated that whilst India cannot show a complete chain of efficiently nursed hospitals, there has been a great development of skilled nursing in recent years. This activity was principally centred in the Provinces of Bengal, Madras and Bombay, though the Provinces of Burma and Bihar and Orissa were not far behind. In these Provinces the chief hospitals are well nursed, private staffs are maintained available to the general public on payment of a prescribed scale of fees, and they turn out, as training institutions, a yearly supply of fully trained nurses both to meet their own demands and those of outside institutions and private agencies. The supply of trained nurses, both English, Anglo-Indian and Indian is thus being steadily increased. In Bombay the organisation had gone a step further through the establishment of the Bombay Presidency Nursing Association composed of representatives of various Nursing Associations working under the Government, by which central examination and control, combined with complete individual autonomy in administration, was obtained.

State Registration of Nurses in India had not yet been effected and was much required. This was discussed in 1923, but as yet without results as far as he was aware, although Government had proposed to establish a Provincial Register preparatory to an all-India Register.

Mr. Montgomery then referred to the work carried on by various Nursing bodies or Associations in India, e.g., Lady Minto's Nursing Association and the Military Nursing Services and made special reference, as of much interest to the British College of Nurses, of the Association of Nursing Superintendents of India with which is amalgamated the Trained Nurses Association of India. This combined Association had as its objects not the employment or supply

of nurses, but the improvement and unification of nursing education, the promotion of esprit de corps among nurses and the upholding of the dignity and honour of the nursing profession. He expressed a hope that the activities of the British College of Nurses would result in the betterment of the profession, feeling sure that any uplift in this country would be bound to have repercussion in India.

On behalf of the High Commissioner and the people of India he wished the British College of Nurses every success in its efforts to dignify and improve the standards of Nursing.

The toast of the evening—

Success to Imperial Standards of Health in Great Britain and the Dominions

was then honoured with enthusiasm.

OUR GUESTS.

The next toast, "Our Guests," was proposed by Miss H. L. Pearse, F.B.C.N., who mentioned in this connection, in addition to those from our own Dominions, the names of Miss Dorothy A. Snell, S.R.N., Matron of the Scuola Convitto Regina Elena, Policlinico Hospital, Rome; Miss Cornelia Peterson, of Denmark; and Miss Sophie Nelson, U.S.A.

The British College of Nurses was grateful to all its guests for giving its Fellows and Members the pleasure of their company. She had much pleasure in proposing the toast of "The Guests." This was carried by acclamation.

The Response.

Miss E. A. Conyers, R.R.C., formerly Matron-in-Chief Australian Nursing Service, said it was a great pleasure and a great privilege to represent Victoria on this occasion. During the war she had met many nurses from all parts of the Dominions, many State registered. Since then they had obtained State Registration in all the States of Australia. She thanked the Council of the British College of Nurses most heartily for a very pleasant evening.

THE CHAIR.

Mr. W. C. BOTTOMLEY, C.B., C.M.G., O.B.E. (Colonial Office), in proposing a vote of thanks to the Chairman, spoke of the cheeriness and brightness of Nurses. Wherever as the emissary of the Colonial Office he met them he found these characteristics, which he thought were derived from the pride and satisfaction which they had in their work. Every woman, he said, who went out to nurse in the tropics sooner or later realised that she had to represent home to a man dying thousands of miles away from it. The training of native nurses was a matter of the greatest importance. Maternity and Health Centres created a new value to maternity and to infants, and would, he hoped, revolutionise the future.

He proposed a cordial vote of thanks to the Chair, which was received with prolonged acclamation.

The Response.

The Chairman (MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK) offered sincere thanks to Mr. Bottomley—on her own behalf and on that of the Council, Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses—and the important Department which he represented. She felt that the evening had been very much worth while. Links which the College desired to forge had been forged, and she thanked those who had honoured the Council of the College by being its guests.

In regard to Mr. Bottomley's words about nurses, she believed they realised that there was no work like their own. It was the finest in the world. (Applause.)

The proceedings concluded with the singing of "God save the King," and the hands of the clock were moving towards midnight as the last goodbyes were said.

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