

Three Indian Male Nurses in Australia

By

Marjorie Thomson

Three Indian male nurses now in Australia were surprised to find that nursing is almost exclusively a woman's profession in this country.

The three men are Thomas M. Cherivukalayl, of the Wanless Hospital, Miraj Medical Centre, Bombay, Joy Kalyan Singh, of the Clara Swain Hospital, Bareilly, and Akshai Kumar, of the Prince of Wales Medical College Hospital, Patna.

In June, 1958, they began a six months' diploma course under the Colombo Plan in operating theater technique at the New South Wales College of Nursing, Sydney.

During the course they are assigned to various hospitals to observe surgery preparation, instrument arrangement and sterilising methods.

One of the hospitals to which they were assigned for two weeks was the Concord Repatriation General Hospital, a 1,100 bed hospital for military and ex-service personnel, their dependents, and war widows.

Mr. Cherivukalayl said: "We are most impressed by the high standard of nursing training in Australia. The nurses work intelligently without close supervision."

"We have been surprised to find that trained male nurses are almost unknown

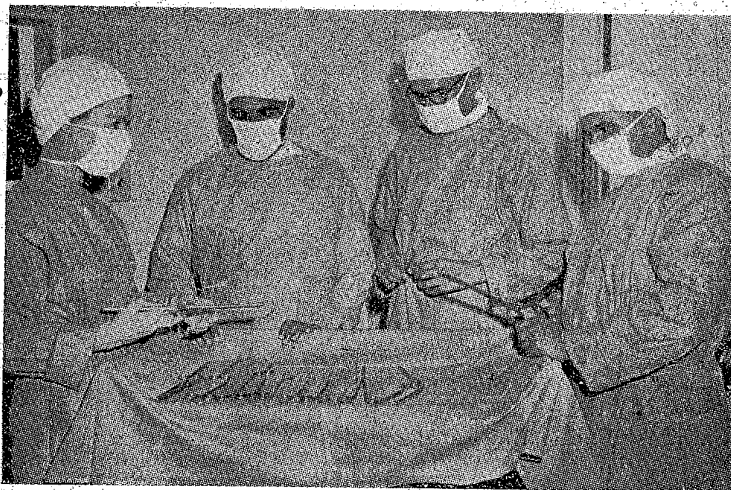
in Australia, although male nursing orderlies are used in the men's wards, supervised by women nurses", he said.

The automatic steam sterilisers which operate at 270 degrees Fahrenheit and sterilise instruments in two minutes, impressed Mr. Singh.

"The equipment in the Sydney hospitals is modern and first-rate", said Mr. Singh.

"At the two Indian hospitals where Mr. Cherivukalayl and I are located, sterilising is done by boiling, which is a much lengthier process than the steam sterilising method used here."

Mr. Akshai Kumar said the Prince of Wales Medical College Hospital, Patna, to which he is attached, has similar equipment to that of Concord Repatriation General Hospital.



L to R—Mr. Cherivukalayl, Mr. Akshai Kumar and Mr. J. K. Singh with Sister Spicer.

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