

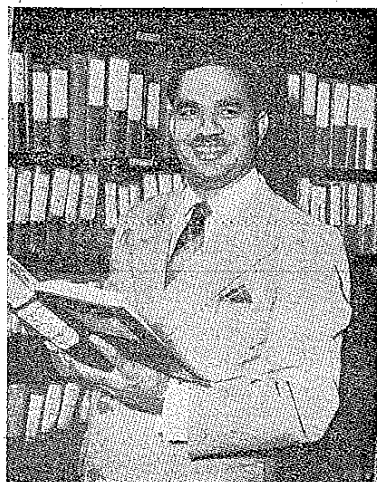
Indian Male Nurses Gain Australian Diplomas

By

Marjorie Thomson

Two qualified male nurses from India, who were selected to do specialised courses in Australia under the Colombo Plan, have been awarded Australian nursing diplomas.

They are Mr. C.B. Balasubrahramiam, from the Indian Government Headquarters' Hospital, Kurnool, Andhra, and Mr. Nelson Prem Tookey, from the Christian Hospital, Jagadhri, Ambala,



Mr. C. B. Balasubrahramiam R.N.

Both men studied operating theatre technique, a six months' course available in Australia for trained nurses who intend specialising in this work. It consists of lectures, and observation in the big general hospitals.

At the conclusion of the course the Indians did six months' practical work in hospitals throughout the State of New South Wales where they assisted with all types of surgery, in-

cluding heart, brain and chest operations.

They worked not only at the big public hospitals such as Sydney Hospital, the Royal Prince Alfred and St. George District Hospital, but also at smaller hospitals elsewhere in the State.

Both men were impressed by the facilities available at the smaller country hospitals, and the modern techniques they employ.

"The basic principles of operating theatre technique and nursing are similar in both India and Australia," said Mr. Tookey.

"But in Australia it has been interesting to note the large number of operating theatres attached to the big hospitals.

"This means that several operations can be carried out simultaneously, and a great number of surgical cases attended to every week."

Mr. Balasubrahramiam will do a further course this year, in nursing administration and management, before returning to India.

Both men were surprised to find that there are so few trained male nurses in Australia, although there are male nursing attendants in the big general hospitals.

"This is a distinct contrast to India, where it is usual to have male trained nurses in the men's section of a general hospital," said Mr. Balasubrahramiam.

Mr. Balasubrahramiam gained distinctions in anaesthesia, operating theatre planning and management, and practical work, and a credit in bacteriology.

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