

stagnant water in trenches and terraces must be avoided; and the workmen must be well housed, well fed, and their health adequately safeguarded.

These methods can of course only be applied in certain regions. In others it will be well to take the precautions described above, or those with which we shall deal when speaking of the preventive and curative treatment. The disease may be completely stamped out in large cities. Elsewhere we must be content to reduce malaria to a minimum compatible with the strength and prosperity of the population.

Health Bulletins of special interest to you. Put out by the Malaria Institute of India :—

- | | | | | |
|---------|--|-----|-----|---------------|
| No. 5. | Lectures on Malaria, by Covell | ... | ... | Price Annas 5 |
| No. 11 | Anti-Mosquito Measures with special reference to India, by Covell | ... | ... | Price Annas 8 |
| No. 22 | Man-Made Malaria in India, by Sinton and Raja Ram, | ... | ... | Price Annas 4 |
| No. 25. | The prevention of Malaria incidental to Engineering construction, by Mulligan and Afridi | ... | ... | Price Annas 7 |

These are obtainable from the Manager of Publications, Civil Lines, Delhi.

Also be sure to read the book—Ronald Ross, Dragon Slayer, by J.O. Dobson. Also watch for the Walt Disney malaria film, "Winged Scourge." Little dwarfs take up the fight against the mosquito. This cartoon shoot is due to be released in India in May at both English and Indian cinemas.

THE ANCIENT NURSING ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM.

By Miss Buchanan.

The Crusades, whose history must be studied elsewhere, are to us of special interest, because they constituted the direct reason for the founding of Military Nursing Orders. The earlier pilgrims to Jerusalem had used the hostels of Paula, and other hostels were established by different nations. But it was not until about 1050 A. D. that some wealthy Italian merchants of Amalfi founded two hostels. They were dedicated respectively to St. John, the Almoner, and Mary Magdalene.

A spirit of *noblesse oblige* which laid upon the nobly born the obligation of service, protection and defence of the weak, resulted in the high ideals of the Military Nursing Order into which knights and high-born Dames entered that they might meet the need arising from the crusades.

Three great military and chivalric nursing orders had their rise in those stirring and romantic times and assumed as their duty a combination of war making, charitable relief, and hospital nursing under devoutly religious forms.

They were in the order of their greatest renown, the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, Rhodes, and Malta, commonly called the Knights of St. John, the teutonic knights, and the Knights of St. Lazarus. Each had provision for a corresponding order of women. In charge of the sisterhood of women nurses was a noble Roman lady named Agnes, of whom little is known.

In its inception the order of St. John was secular; towards the end of the 11th century, under the direction of Peter Gerard, an intensely devout man, a strictly religious form was adopted, the members renounced the world, took vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, but under its second director Raymond Du Puy, who was essentially a warrior, a markedly military character was adopted and became exclusively aristocratic, open only to members of a distinct social class.

As the war-like features increased, the order was divided for utility's sake into three sections. (1) Knights or men at arms whose first duty was to fight, yet who

were expected to serve in the hospital wards when not engaged in battle. (2) Priests. (3) Serving brothers or half knights.

The knights or sisters of St. John wore a black habit with a white cross on it, later the white cross was set on a red ground. It had eight points representing eight virtues professed by the order.

The fame of this order became so great as a result of their excellent nursing and relief work, that gifts of land and treasure made the Order very wealthy. It built hospitals and founded branches in many countries, the English branch dating from the year 1100 A. D. The order also received and nursed insane patients with great intelligence and sympathy. It was the only one of the Military Orders that accepted insane patients.

The career of the hospitallers of St. John was one of great usefulness and distinction until the time of the expulsion of the Christians from Palestine at the end of the 13th century. From this date, its efficiency as a nursing order gradually waned, though its wealth and fame continued to grow.

From Jerusalem the central house of the Order fled to Cyprus, then to the Island of Rhodes where headquarters were maintained for some 200 years, again driven out by the Moslems in 1522, the Order was given the Island of Malta by Charles V in 1530. But, by this time, wealth and power had corrupted it, nursing was gradually neglected, the sisters were scattered and weakened, the political activities brought the once famed Order into disrepute, and it was finally suppressed, but the knights continued their activities in a very modified form with branches in several countries notably in England and one was recently formed in the United States.

At the height of its nursing excellence, the regulations worked out by the order were adopted by practically all the city hospitals as they arose in Europe. Its influence over mediæval hospital management and nursing was therefore very great. Distinct traces of its organization and military form of discipline in our institutions are still to be seen. Certain orthodox hospital ceremonials and forms of etiquette, notably those of formal rounds and the "standing at attention" of the nurses and junior medical men have come down to us from the military orders. There is also much in their gradual promotion which suggests our training schools, though the probationary system itself dates back to the earlier monastic orders.

The hospitals at Jerusalem under Military Nursing Orders gave board to the pilgrims, alms to the poor, as well as care to the sick. Its army hospitals were often filled to overflowing with wounded soldiers. The buildings were of the utmost architectural beauty, and were furnished with the most complete equipment known to their times. At Valetta patients were served from silver dishes and linen was provided in abundance.

The account of their administration shows thorough organization. The chief Director made rounds with physicians and assistants, supervised various departments. A staff physician lectured daily on anatomy and weekly on clinical medicine for the benefit of younger physicians and nursing brothers. The needy patients received clothes and food when they left the hospital.

The name and best traditions of the Order live on to-day in the "St. John's Guilds" and "Ambulance Corps", "First aid to the injured" and "St. John's Nursing Association". An account of their services rendered at the time of an earthquake in Sicily in 1783 reads like a chapter from modern Red Cross relief work. Therefore representatives of the Knights of St. John appeared at Geneva Conference in 1863 to help in founding the committee of the International Red Cross.

The Order continues in existence to-day. Under the name of St. John Ambulance Brigade it did honourable work during the great war. The order of a lady of grace of the order of St. John is one of the few military distinctions conferred upon women to-day. It was conferred on Miss Helen Reid, B. A., Secretary and organizer of the Canadian Patriotic Fund of Montreal and one of the chief organizers of the graduate School of Nurses at McGill University.