

A Mohammdan Nurse, who is now a 2nd year Student Nurse in a Hospital and Training School for Nurses in North India, has sent the following:—

"India is coming forward in every respect. Indian Films are now showing a Nurse's life and her profession; also the protection against, as well as the prevention and cure of Disease.

Young Indian girls who make up their minds to take up Nursing, cannot do so as there are two things in their way. First the Uniform. Indian girls are not allowed to wear frocks according to their religion and nationality, so I feel they should be allowed to wear white cotton saris, aprons and a white cap, or salwar-kurta, apron and an army cap.

Second is the question of Education. India has gone poor now and the majority of her people cannot afford to educate their children to a high level. In the case of girls, there is only 1% of people who pay any attention to a girl's education. All the money has to be spent on the boys. The girls have to study at Municipal Board Schools, getting a free education up

to Middle. After which they have to sit at home and get married. As a girl who wishes to be a Nurse should be a Matriculate, it is very difficult due to poverty. If the Government of India take a step to help these girls for their education the day will rapidly come when every girl will possess a Matriculation Certificate. As the reports show that India needs many more trained Nurses to nurse their sick it is up to the Punjab Registration Council to permit the Middle School Pass girls to take up the Nursing Profession. They will have their Lectures in the Vernacular, special terms in English, and when trained they can have a "B" grade Certificate. India needs Nurses of her own religion and nationality. A Patient feels most cheerful, homely and comfortable if nursed by a Nurse who can understand him nicely. She can be more helpful to him if she belongs to the same religion and Nation.

I appeal to the people in authority to come forward to help these girls one way or the other."

### Graduation of Leper Nurses

#### Chandkhuri Leper Homes and Hospital Baitalpur, C.P.

by D.L.Rishi, Laboratory Technician.

It is a great pleasure and joy for me to give an account of the graduation service of five leper nurses that was held on Thursday the 3rd August, 1944 at the Claire Church, Baitalpur. An interesting programme was arranged. Rev. M.D. Wany, B.D. Pastor of Bistrampur Church and Secretary of the Chhattisgarh Orissa Church Council was invited as a special speaker for the occasion.

As the second bell of the church rang all the nurses together with staff members who had parts in the programme, marched into the church in procession while the Victrola played, "Lead kindly light". The pastor of the church conducted the service. The programme began with a hymn followed by prayer, Bible reading, and sermon. In his thrilling speech Rev. Wany brought home into the hearts of all, that nursing is not only a profession but a gift of God for those who really have the call of God for this service; proceeding on, he said, that a nurse while doing her service should bear in mind

three things: (1) She must give colour to lives (2) must save life (3) must have adventurous and faithful life.

Thereafter Miss M.M. Kroehler, R.N., the Nursing Superintendent, charged the graduates with the ethics of nursing and they in turn, with other nurses, all standing pledged their allegiance and loyalty to the profession, following which Dr. H. H. Gass, the Superintendent, gave away the certificates.

In the end Mrs. H.H. Gass led the candle service. While she lighted a big candle and placed it on a stand, Dr. D.V. Isaac, Assistant Medical Officer began singing, "In the service, In the service, we remain alert". The graduates one by one lighted their candles from the big one and went out of the church singing the chorus. They were followed by the other nurses and staff. Outside the church they stood up in two rows making a lighted passage for the congregation that was sitting silent in the church to pass out. With candles in hands all

looked as if they pledged in soliloquy "to the Lord, the Light of the world, to be torch bearers all the days of their lives."

Afterwards all the nurses were entertained to dinner by Miss Kroehler. I think it will not be out of place to give a short note as to how this class came into existence. It was in 1932 when Miss Kroehler took over the charge of nursing of this hospital, she was faced with the problems of nursing of 60 in-patients and 600 out-patients of this institution, single handed. She planned to train up some of the patients to give some ordinary help to the patients in the hospital wards, such as a layman and woman could give to a sick one of his or her family. By and by they were taught to do more. These patient helpers were willing to do all they learnt and liked to do, but when the question of giving bedpans and urinals to patients was brought up before them, none of them was willing. With great difficulty and after much explanation and persuasion one by the name of Beni, a Christian illiterate youth who has now passed on to his eternal reward, volunteered to do even this nature of work. It pleased Miss Kroehler. She must have thanked God to find at least one amongst these helpers, who was willing to do everything he could for his fellow sufferers. As time elapsed more helpers followed the noble example of the late Beni. Not only this but some literate patients also volunteered to join in this kind of work. Miss Kroehler realising this to be a new avenue of opportunity was not slack to seize it to the best advantage and good purpose. Soon she started a regular nursing class, teaching them even in odd hours when the other members of staff had their midday rest, with a view to avoid interfering in the daily routine. Of course she had to adopt a course to the capacity of grasping of these people. It included a long list of subjects which are divided in three parts.

Part I--Bed bathing, bed-making, care of the ward, bed sores, temperature, pulse, respiration, enemata, sepsis and asepsis, dressings, and bandaging.

Part II--Nursing Ethics; attitude towards patient and each other, duty to oneself; Hygiene: light & air, food,

drink, clothing, cleanliness exercise, sleep, and infectious diseases.

Part III--Nursing Ethics: The patient and the nurse, gossip and truth, observation, giving and taking reports, counter-irritants, observing and saving of specimens, simple diets, administration of drugs and injections

This covered a period of two years. The first graduation of 13 nurses took place in 1935 when Dr. E. Muir, M. D., F. R. C. S., Director of Leprosy Research Work, School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta who was on a visit to this hospital, gave away certificates to the graduates. Since then several batches of trained nurses have come out successfully. Some of them are working in different leprosy hospitals and so far have been found to shoulder important responsibilities satisfactorily.

It is interesting to note that while they had their training and work they continued their treatment for leprosy also, and by the grace of God many of them have recovered from their disease as well. Thus they have been able to bring blessing to themselves as well as others.

Out of these 5 graduates 3 are free from the signs of leprosy and the other two are about to be so, soon.

We congratulate Miss Kroehler for this fine achievement and also Miss M. M. Gadt, R. N. Tilda, who had a hand in it while Miss Kroehler went away on furlough when she took over the nursing here and continued the class too.

No doubt, the class has been of great service and blessing to many. The interesting feature of the class at present is that even non-Christian youths have volunteered to join it, some of them being 4th English passed. Two of them are Brahman by caste but they have been so impressed by this noble service that they also volunteered to do any nature of work that the profession involved, even giving of bedpans and urinals.

This is no doubt a step forward, that Christian influence of life and example can exert upon these non-Christian youths. May God's name be praised that through our lives and work we could do much to change lives for Christ.