

I shall be very grateful if members will send to me any such characteristic articles and I will personally undertake their forwarding to London.

Please may any such articles reach me not later than April 30th.

Yours sincerely,

M. E. ABRAM,

Chairman,

*The National Florence Nightingale
Memorial Committee of India.*

The Passing Bell. We very much regret to announce the death of Mrs. A. L. W. Randolph of Narsapur, she passed away suddenly on March 12th. She was a most active member of the 'Trained Nurses' Association of India and will be very much missed. We extend our most heartfelt sympathy to all her relations and friends.

Notice. The General Secretary hopes to be in Coonoor from, approximately April 10th to May 31st. She will be most grateful if members who are going to Ootacamund or Coonoor will kindly write to her and give her their addresses, as she hopes to arrange a picnic meeting. All letters should be addressed to her, at Gainsford, Coonoor.

An Apology. The Editor apologizes for the printing mistakes made in the *Journal* last month. Mr. Arthur Stanley should have been Sir Arthur Stanley and Mrs. Gordon Fenwick should have been Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.

One of the articles in the Student Nurses' Page was signed K. Enos but both were written by Miss K. Hunt.

MENTAL NURSING IN INDIA

By J. L. MASTERS, POONA

The International Council of Nurses, Geneva, write to enquire of the progress we have made in Mental Nursing in India. One can only say that although we are slow: yet we are striving to raise the standard of Nursing in Mental Hospitals.

When in 1923 three overseers [male (graduate) attendants who nurse the male patients in the Central Mental Hospital, Yeravada] and two Trained Nurses qualified for the examination in 'the subject matter of the English Asylum Attendants Handbook for Attendants on the Insane' (this book is published by the authority of the Medico-Psychological Association, as the official book by which all attendants are to be trained and on which they are to be examined for the certificate of proficiency in Mental Nursing), the Superintendent with the Deputy Superintendent of the Central Mental Hospital, Yeravada, took both the preliminary and the final examinations and announced the results; assuring the overseers and nurses who had appeared for the examination that their success was recorded and every one hoped that the pace had been set for a higher standard of Mental Nursing in India. No certificate was given but thenceforward they received a proficiency allowance of Rs. 25 per month. Since 1923 this process continues, so that all overseers and nurses in permanent service in this hospital have passed the Medico-Psychological Association's tests of proficiency in Mental Nursing.

According to the account given by Miss Baldwin in the *Nursing Journal of India* of October 1936 Major Taylor, M.D.Ph., I.M.S., the Superintendent of the European Mental Hospital, Ranchi has moved a big step forward by having arranged for his nurses the honour of having been examined by the Royal Medico-Psychological Association. Not only has he pointed the way to establish comfort and happiness for the patients in Mental Hospitals, but also the way to attract suitable candidates for the Nursing Staff. And his perspicacity is worthy of imitation by officers of other such Mental Hospitals.

India is undoubtedly awaking to her responsibility for this branch of nursing also. Note in this Presidency (a) the establishing of the Sir Dorabji Tata Graduate School of Social Work. This school includes in its teaching Psychiatric Social Work. (b) The Superintendent of the Children's Rescue Home in Umarkhandi, Bombay, pleads for a Home to be raised for mentally defective children. (c) A Health Visitors' Institute has also been established in Bombay; its object being to train lady students for the Health Visitors' Diploma.

There is a need also that that some kind of simple training should be provided for the ward-boys and ayahs, who work with the overseers and nurses in Mental Hospitals. They do most of the rough work of the hospital and are in contact with the patients.

STATISTICS AT CHANDKHURI LEPROSY HOMES AND HOSPITAL

BY M. MAGDALENE KROEHLER

Roslind Nash revised Sir Edward Cook's *The Life of Florence Nightingale*. In it she quotes Miss Nightingale as having written to Dr. Bowman at one time, 'In all our corridor, I think, we have not an average of three limbs per man.' It was when she was doing the heroic services in the Crimean War that she wrote thus of her soldier patients.

But we are not in war, and yet, looking over our fifty-five patients last week, I wondered if we could not give equally as interesting statistics about our leprosy patients. I find that we have among these, six 'whole' patients,—whole, with the exception that they have leprosy. Missing among their members are, two legs, one arm, nine eye, two hundred and twelve toes, two hundred and twenty-three fingers. Or if we put it in another way,—the average number of toes per patient is slightly above six, while the average of fingers is less than six. Out of every six patients five have the use of both their eyes.

Miss Nightingale also had difficult nursing problems, but hers were different from ours. For going on with statistics like those above, we find among our twenty-four nurses (these, too, are leprosy patients) the following members missing,—two eyes, thirty-six toes, forty-four fingers. However, just half of them have no deformities at all. But we see devoted service among those of the group who have been with us longest, and can say with Miss Nightingale, also as she was able to say of some of her nurses in later years, 'Their whole mind, their whole life and strength, are in the work.'

Much that Miss Nightingale writes in the above mentioned letter can be said about our patients, too, sometimes figuratively, often literally. (Figuratively): 'And there are two more ships "loading" at the Crimeas with wounded.' Ours do not really come in shiploads, but they do come in larger and larger groups, and they ARE wounded (Literally): 'Then come the operations, and a melancholy, not an encouraging list is this.' How the patients are as cheerful about having their bones removed, we often cannot comprehend, but they bear it, and are even grateful for the suffering we must often cause them, since they realize its ultimate value towards saving theirs lives. (Literally): 'We have no room for corpses in the wards.' Not that we would really leave them there, if there was room, but we hardly manage to discharge the patients rapidly enough to make room for others that need ward treatment. (Figuratively): 'As for the Balls, they go in where they like, and come out where they like, and do as much harm as they can in passing. That is the only rule they have.' We might say, 'As for leprosy, it comes when it wants to and leaves when it wants to; it attacks