

rare quality which belongs to the born nurse. She is greatly missed from among us in our work, and none the less so from the social activities, to which she had become a great asset, working hard in preparation of a concert which it is intended to produce at Christmas.

Our members now number 70. 18 members left, having completed training. All were equipped with forms of application to the T.N.A.I. and those who joined will, we hope, become keen and useful members of the parent body.

We are very glad to know that quite a number of late members are now in England, taking a training in midwifery, and others are at the Eden Hospital and the Lady Curzon Hospital, taking their training in maternity nursing.

We have also welcomed back eight old members, who have now become staff nurses, and two are now Sisters in their training school.

18 new members were enrolled.

F. KENYON,
Secretary.

Student Nurses' Association, General Hospital, Madras, 1933-34

The total number of pupil nurses at present in the General Hospital is 87. During the year 1933-34, 22 student nurses passed their final examination and were transferred to the Government Hospital for Women and Children and other hospitals for further training. Seven student nurses resigned for various reasons during the year.

Last year, several evenings were spent in having bridge drives, games, etc., which have been greatly enjoyed by one and all. This year, I regret to say, they have not been able to enjoy many social functions.

The student nurses convey their best wishes to all members who are attending the Conference and hope they will have an interesting and enjoyable time. They very much regret that none of them are able to attend owing to heavy work and shortage of staff in this hospital.

G. K. GADSDEN,
Matron Superintendent.

DEAR MISS ROBSON,

It was a very kind thought of the Student Nurses to send me a telegram from their Annual Meeting and I appreciate it more than I can say.

It was a real disappointment to me that I was unable to be present. I always enjoy the Student Nurses' Meeting and feel its enthusiasm and stimulus and it gave me a very warm glow to receive greetings and thoughts from them this year.

Will you please convey to them all my very sincere thanks and also good wishes for a successful and happy year.

Yours sincerely,
M. E. ABRAM,
President, Trained Nurses' Association of India.

FRAGMENTS

Epidemic Dropsy and Epidemic Beri-Beri

'Epidemic dropsy and epidemic beri-beri, both diseases of a toxic nature, are characterized by oedema, hypertrophy with dilatation of the heart and peripheral neuritis. The beri-beri is caused by a deficiency of Vitamin B. Epidemic dropsy is due to a toxin produced in diseased rice.'

With the advent of rice mills these diseases have become epidemic. Legislation to prevent high-polishing and storing in hot damp places after milling seems the logical preventive measure, and one which has doubtless occurred to the minds of many public health nurses in India.

Longevity

India's expectation of life at birth (according to the latest actuarial report) is 27 years. In a comparative study among nationalities by Professor Raymond Pearl and his daughter, in the rate of survival till the 92nd year of life, Norway leads and India comes last.

VITAL STATISTICS BY PROVINCES

Province	Birth-rate per mille, 1932	Death-rate per mille, 1932
Bengal Presidency ...	26.6	20.5
Madras „ ...	36.03	21.96
Bombay „ ...	35.89	23.04
United Provinces ...	34.68	22.23
Punjab ...	41.36	24.70
Central Provinces ...	45.20	26.89
Bihar and Orissa ...	33.8	20.6
N. W. F. Province ...	28.89	20.0
Burma ...	27.75	17.30
Assam ...	30.06	18.96

Sodium Evipan Anaesthesia

Dr. Chellappa of the K. E. M. Hospital, Secunderabad, in a study of 30 cases including salpingectomy, appendicectomy, Caesarian section, sub-total hysterectomy, strangulated hernia, tonsillectomy, hydrocele D and C; evisceration of eye, cellulitis, says the simplicity of the administration of sodium evipan (by intravenous injection) is its most attractive feature. The most noticeable shortcoming of evipan is its tendency to cause a boisterous or even violent condition of the patient after operation. Its dangers are few: its advantages many.

The Ganja Dance

After Conference your Editor visited Miss Bjornstad, at Ahmednagar where among other interesting things, and places, she was taken to see the harvesting of *Cannabis sativa*, better known as Ganja. The budded tops of the plant are plucked and spread on the ground and every day for four days to the beat of drums men dance barefooted upon it to trample the juice evenly, no machinery has been found satisfactory. It is then packed in bales ready for export.

Ganja brings Rs. 2 per seer to the producer and Rs. 30 per seer to the Government as revenue.

The Marijuana Menace

Although as appalling in its effects on the human mind and body as narcotics, the consumption of Marijuana (known in India as 'Ganja', in Arabia as 'hashish') appears to be proceeding virtually unchecked in Colorado and other Western States among Spanish-Americans especially, but its use is spreading to the other classes.

The poisonous weed which maddens the senses and emaciates the body of the user, is being sold more or less openly in pool halls and beer gardens throughout the West and South-west, in the form of cigarettes.

The sensations of the addict are wholly different to those of the user of narcotics. Users of Marijuana become stimulated as they inhale the drug and are likely to do anything. Most crimes of violence, especially in this section are laid to users of the drug—(*Canadian Medical Journal*, Nov. 1934).

Cancer Immunity

Jewish women are protected by racial immunity from cancer of the cervix, a fact which may somewhat explain conflicting opinions as to the danger and frequency of stump cancer following sub-total hysterectomy.

(E. Von. Graff, writing in *American Journal of Obst.*, 1934.)

Malaria in Ceylon

A terrible epidemic of malaria (malignant tertian) has been raging in Ceylon for two months. It is believed to be under control now. This epidemic has been of an unprecedented nature.



THE HEALTH VISITORS' LEAGUE SECTION

The Honorary Secretary of the League,
Miss M. E. Raynor, Indian Red Cross Society,
Egmore, Madras, will gladly receive reports
and articles for insertion in this section.

DEAR FELLOW HEALTH VISITORS,

I was delighted to receive two contributions for the *Journal* on two consecutive days this month and I hope I shall get contributions like that regularly all through 1935! The first letter was from Miss Korah, who was working under a Rural Development Scheme in the Chingleput District of Madras Presidency. She is now doing pioneer work in a new area in the same district, but it is of her work under the Scheme that she tells us. She writes:—

‘I hope the following few lines will interest some of my fellow Health Visitors who have had no opportunity of working in a typical village like Kadambathur (about 35 miles from Madras), where one is not able to obtain proper medical aid and the female population is left to the tender mercies of barber midwives for their confinements. The whole population of the village consists of highly orthodox caste Hindus only. As the manner and customs of the people and the methods of midwifery vary in different places, I hope you will be deeply interested to hear something about the people of Kadambathur where I had the pleasant experience of working for over five months.

It is the usual practice especially among the well-to-do people to have the barber midwife who attends the child-birth remain in the house for 10 nights. For the first three days and nights she is held responsible for feeding the baby either with cow's milk, asses' milk or breast milk from a wet nurse. Nobody in the house touches the baby until after the bath on the 3rd day. It is the custom, mostly among the low caste Hindus, to give a female baby a male child's urine and a male baby a female child's urine on the 2nd day. Their idea is to make the baby vomit out all the mucus, etc. They believe that a baby will never pass all the meconium unless it is given some medicine which is very hot. In most cases the barber midwife detects some blue coloration in the baby and so it is sponged with cow's urine every