

surprising that we find that most of the blindness which prevails is preventable blindness, but is unfortunately not prevented, and that a great deal of the existing blindness is actually remediable but no remedy is applied. There are thousands of totally blind people in India who could have their sight restored if they submitted to a surgical operation. Lack of knowledge, too much trouble, too much expense, or apathy prevent them from having their sight restored. Children too are often neglected by their parents and are allowed to remain blind when early treatment could restore their vision.

(To be continued)

NURSING EDUCATION IN INDIA *

BY MISS D. CHADWICK, S.R.N.

DURING the current year, I have made some attempt to find out the standard of Nursing in India. During December 1930, I sent out a hundred copies of the enclosed questionnaire to hospitals—Government and Mission—in all parts of the country. I did not follow any system of circularising to every hospital, for the task would have been too stupendous, but I chose a few hospitals here and there in each Presidency. Out of the 100 questionnaires sent out, only 47 were returned completed, and my opinion was that in those hospitals, at any rate, the tendency was to improve the standard of Nursing and that there was a genuine desire on the part of those in charge towards that end. The text-books quoted as being in use in these hospitals were chiefly quite well-known English and American ones.

It is disconcerting to note that there are several large hospitals which do not appear to have training schools for nurses; and one wonders if it would not be possible for some of them to take their part in what is really a very valuable and necessary work in India—to help to further the profession and at the same time, find a means of skilled livelihood for the women of this country. I do not advocate the latter reason for hospitals to become training schools, or for women to take up the Nursing Profession, because I feel now that there is already too great a tendency to take up our work with that object in view. In short, Nursing in India to a great extent is lacking in conscience, and nurses apply for vacancies simply because they want to earn money and have no vocation or feeling on the matter at all, and for that reason one finds at times rough manners and words used towards patients. That, I think, is one of the greatest

* The Report of the T.N.A.I. Committee on Nursing Education, as presented at the Annual Conference, 1931.

difficulties of the heads of the Nursing Profession in India and an attitude in which we must put forward every effort to try to defeat.

The Nurses' Registration Acts, as they slowly come into force in the different Presidencies of India, should have a decidedly stimulating effect on raising the standard of Nursing as a whole—at least that is evident now in the Madras Presidency where the Registration Act is in force. More and more hospitals are seeking for recognition and are willing to adopt the syllabus of training laid down by the Government in both General Nursing and in Midwifery in order that the nurses holding Diplomas of those hospitals may become Registered Nurses and Midwives.

It was also noticeable in going through the returned question papers to find that many of the hospitals were doing their best to nurse with very small staffs. I suppose this condition is an economic one, but one which also I think will be improved as time goes on.

Questionnaire

1. Name of Hospital
2. Number of beds: Male Female Children
3. Daily average number of patients
4. Whether a Nurse Training School
5. Number of fully trained nurses employed
6. Number of nurses in training
7. Length of training
8. Who are the members of your Examining Board?
9. Are nurses granted a certificate?
10. What syllabus of lectures is used?
11. Are lectures given by medical staff?
How many lectures are given?
12. Number of major and minor operations annually.

A Quaint Old 18th Century Prayer

(Of English origin, but its author is unknown).

Give me a good digestion, Lord, and also something to digest,
Give me a healthy body, Lord, with sense enough to keep it at its best.
Give me a healthy mind, good Lord, to keep the good and pure in sight;
Which, seeing sin, is not afraid, but finds a way to set it right.
Give me a mind that is not bound, and does not whimper, whine or sigh.
Don't let me worry overmuch about the puny thing called I,
Give me a sense of humour, Lord, give me the grace to see a joke;
To get some happiness from life, and pass it on to other folk.

—From *British Journal of Nursing*.