

which characteristics it is useless for any girl to enter for training if she is to take a responsible position in the nursing profession. It is the lack of these qualities of pluck and perseverance which results in a lack of candidates for training as nurses.

We ask them to make an appeal to their pupils to take this tremendous opportunity which nursing gives them of helping their fellow-countrywomen in their time of need, and thus serving their Motherland of India. To those of us who are Christian what closer following in Our Master's steps can we give? He who went about doing good, healing the sick.

AN EXPERIENCE IN VILLAGE WORK.

BY MISS SAVAGE.

The following is a case which occurred just recently. I was opening up our dispensary one afternoon when several young men came to ask help for a woman who was obstructed in labour in a house near by. I sent for a woman who could tell me about her, and hearing the particulars wrote a note to the doctor who was enjoying an afternoon off, and closing up went to see what preparations could be made.

In the narrow alley around the door were crowded 50 or 60 women and girls. The door, a narrow slit in a low wall, led into a tiny room about 5 feet x 6 feet, and on the floor I found the patient with a number of women squatting around. This was the third day of labour. Four hours before the head had been born. Both arms had been brought down and pulled on till one was almost severed from the body. Pains had ceased and she had been lying in this condition with nothing between her and the mud floor ever since.

My first request was for hot water and a bed; but who would get them? The community to which the patient belonged was a particularly clamorous one. Everybody talked at once but no one would assume responsibility. Men folk were told to bring a bed, and the mother-in-law, a helpless unit in the noisy crowd, was sorted out and set to light a fire. I then looked round for a larger room in which to work and found one which would admit of a bed and a limited space for operations. The patient's friends in their alarm had called a second doctor, and in the interval he and his nurse arrived on the scene, but seeing how things were, and learning that the Mission Doctor had also been called, they gladly left the case to her. What an interminable wait it seemed for that bed! The doctor arrived and still it had not come. The friends gaining confidence began to help. At last it appeared, but what a bed! It fell to pieces in the bearer's hands. Pegs of wood had to be driven into its joints to make it stand firm. Moreover, half the coarse cord with which it was laced was missing. Another bed was procurable we heard, but on enquiry it was found to be in even a worse condition. The patient, begging to be "made unconscious," was brought in, and after ejecting half a dozen women whom the appeal to "do as they would be done by" failed to move, we began work. Another half-dozen more intimately concerned were allowed to watch from an adjoining room.

Manual efforts to remove the child failing, the doctor decided to use instruments. To my dismay I found that the water which by this time was almost boiling had been cooled by filling the vessel containing it to the brim. This caused another delay. At last everything was ready, and the patient anaesthetised. The child was removed and the placenta expressed. A hot lysol douche was given and ergot orally. There was a good deal of bleeding.

An amusing incident occurred during the operation. Perspiration trickling down the doctor's face caused her some trouble, and the friendly dai, seeing it, offered to wipe her face with the border of her sari, which well meant offer was refused! Later when opportunity presented itself I wiped it with a towel, and she remarked in injured tones that she had wanted to do it but had not been allowed!

When the patient had been made comfortable we left feeling that we had been through a fight, and still accompanied by a large noisy crowd.

We are thankful that all our work does not have to be done under such conditions. The patient's friends are often very helpful, but where ignorance and poverty combine circumstances are sometimes very trying.

The patient made a splendid recovery. On the third day she discarded her uncomfortable bed for the floor, and on the fifth day the doctor found her sitting up cleaning her grain. She assured us that we had given her "new life."

THE GUILD OF ST. BARNABAS.

The Guild of St. Barnabas for nurses meets on the first Thursday in the month at the J. J. Hospital, Byculla, Bombay, 5-30 P.M. The Local Superior or Secretary would be pleased to welcome nurses to the Guild Meeting or any who would like to consult us about the rules and what the Guild stands for.

The 1925 Edition of "Burdett's Hospitals and Charities" is now ready, Price 17s. 6d. net. Postage 6d. extra.

This annual is the only work of reference dealing exhaustively each year with the hospitals and charitable institutions of Great Britain and the British Empire; so that, apart from its usefulness as a Directory of the subject, it has an especial value for all who are concerned with the finances and organization of such work. The sections relating to Oversea Institutions have been considerably enlarged for the present edition. Publishers—The Scientific Press, Ltd., 28-29, Southampton St., Strand, W. C. 2.