

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES.

LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL
FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN, DELHI.

REALISING that the reason why so few Indian women entered the medical profession was because there was no college in India exclusively for women, Lady Hardinge formed a scheme to build a college and hospital solely for women students, to be staffed entirely by women.

For this purpose, and to commemorate the visit of Her Imperial Majesty to India in 1911, Her Excellency made a personal appeal to her friends among the ruling chiefs, who generously offered her their support, and soon fifteen lakhs had been promised, as well as a number of annual donations towards the expenses of upkeep, including an annual grant from Government.

As a result of this generosity, the foundation stone was laid by Lady Hardinge in 1914 and the college was opened by Lord Hardinge in 1916, arrangements having been made for its affiliation with the Punjab University in the Faculties of Science and Medicine. It is interesting to note that nine of the first students to enter the college are now preparing for their final examination this November. To them will be the honour of being the first women graduates of this college, which is organised and run entirely by women.

The teaching staff consisting of Professors in Medicine, Surgery, Gynæcology, Ophthalmology, Pathology, Science, etc., all hold British diplomas. They live in separate bungalows, which border the compound.

The hospital was opened a year later. It is a two-storied building, built in units, each comprising two large wards, two small wards, spacious verandahs, duty and examination rooms. There are four such units connected by a central building containing operating rooms, offices, stores and lecture rooms. There are well equipped labour rooms, with a small room shortly to be utilised for "twilight sleep." In addition there are 24 cottages for paying patients and a roomy out-patient section with surgical, ophthalmic and electric departments. An X-ray apparatus is actually in existence, but owing to lack of funds cannot be installed.

Two of the above units are only just completed, and owing to the heavy financial loss experienced by the closure of the Alliance Bank, the governing body has decided they cannot be opened for use this year.

The number of beds available is 120, but owing to the "spacious verandahs" that number is often considerably exceeded.

The nursing staff, which started with a matron, one sister, 2 Indian staff nurses and about 8 probationers, now consists of a matron, 4 sisters, one Anglo-Indian and 12 Indian staff nurses, and 24 probationers.

With a view to standardising the training, the hospital affiliated two years ago, for examination purposes, with the Northern United Board of Mission Hospitals, which holds examinations in March and October.

There are three examinations covering the following subjects—anatomy, physiology, hygiene, medical, surgical and obstetrical nursing and theatre work. These may be taken in either the vernacular, Roman Urdu or English. The training is for 3½ years. During the last six months nurses are prepared for the examination of the Punjab Midwives Board. Owing to the number of medical students as well as nurses, the hospital is unable to take pupils for maternity training only.

There is a three months' period of probation. All probationers receive—
1st year, Rs. 7-8-0 per mensem, with board, lodging, uniform and dhoby.

2nd year, Rs. 13-8-0 " " " " "

3rd year, Rs. 20 " " " " "

They all contribute to the Savings Bank Fund which proves a useful "nest egg" when they leave.

The nurses are housed in the Lady Reading Hostel, a beautiful building which was completed and opened by Her Excellency Lady Reading in March of this year.

There are separate bed rooms for staff nurses, dormitories for the probationers and adequate bathroom and lavatory blocks in which a flush system has been installed.

One wing constitutes the sisters' quarters. In the compound are tennis courts for staff and students, base ball and hockey grounds.

In the Spring of this year Her Excellency Lady Reading started a scheme for providing Indian nurses for Indian homes. Three of the senior staff nurses were commandeered for this Lady Reading Service.* They form the nucleus of what, it is hoped, will before long be a popular district nursing service among the Indian people. These nurses are available for daily visiting or for whole or part-time private work. Attendant ayahs are provided. The nurses receive half per cent. of the fees earned in addition to their fixed salary. Like all pioneer work, the progress is slow, but many appreciative letters have been received in connection with the nurse's work, and in May when plague was raging in Delhi, these nurses did some very good work in the temporary Plague Hospital, which was run by the Lady Hardinge Medical College Staff.

MATERNITY AND INFANT WELFARE.

(With a Note on the Progress of this work in Delhi City.)

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Maternity and Infant Welfare work is now receiving some attention in India. It is the work on which depends the existence of mother and infant life. No steps taken in this branch of work, no efforts exerted for the well-being of mothers and infants, and no money spent for this cause can be reckoned too great, when we consider how many poor mothers either lose their

* More fully qualified nurses are wanted for this service. Particulars can be obtained from the Nursing Superintendent, L.R.N.A., Lady Hardinge M. C. H., Delhi.