

The *Nursing Journal* was launched at the Annual Conference held in Agra in December, 1909. In pursuance of a plan proposed at the Conference of 1908 in Bombay, Miss Thorpe had issued 91 shares of Rs. 5 each to 26 members. These shares, which have been paid back, were issued without any guarantee of payment and bearing no interest.

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES.

BED BUGS.

(From "*A Treatise on Hygiene and Public Health*," pp. 288-9.)

By B. N. GHOSE AND J. L. DAS.

AT least one way in which kala-azar is transmitted from man to man is by the bite of the ordinary bed bug and it is also generally accepted as the agent by which typhus fever is transmitted. The ubiquitous tormentor is found to have a greater importance as a carrier of disease than as a simple household nuisance. In India two species, *C. mex lectularius* and *C. rotundatus*, attack man. The flattened reddish-brown colour which characterises them is familiar to all. It appears that the bed bug was originally a parasite of birds and mammals, but although it is confined chiefly to man it has other hosts as well. It has a very wide distribution and can survive long periods—even a year—without food (Lefroy). The eggs are laid in any place to which the females can gain access—in cracks and fissures, in furniture, etc. Like a mosquito it injects an irritating fluid which causes a flow of blood to the spot on which it engorges itself.

Bugs are nocturnal in their habits, but seem to be active at all times. They are usually found in any numbers in dirty beddings, clothes, in cracks in the floor and walls, in chairs, railway carriages, tram-cars, etc.

Fumigation with hydrocyanic acid and formaldehyde is often resorted to in railway carriages and buildings. Superheated steam may with advantage be tried in India. Absolute cleanliness is essential, and scrubbing the floors and bedsteads with kerosine oil, turpentine or pyrethrum powder helps to destroy the pests. Cockroaches and small red ants are their natural enemies.

INSECTS.

(Taken from "*A Treatise on Hygiene and Public Health*," pp. 273-4.)

By B. N. GHOSE AND J. L. DAS.

General Character of Insects.—The bodies of insects are covered with a tough skin and divided into three distinct parts: the head provided with two antennæ or horns, and eyes and mouth of variable form; the trunk and thorax composed of three segments which has underneath it always six articulated limbs, and often above it two or four wings; and abdomen composed of nine segments some of which may be difficult to recognise. In addition to these characteristics they are not provided with interior skeletons and their nervous system is formed of a double cord, swelling at intervals and placed