a very wrong condition in relation to nurses. It shows a spirit of arrogance and selfishness and also we must own, an underlying sense of fear. But what has a well trained woman to fear from an untrained one really? That she may undermine her connection and take away some of her work? Perhaps so. But we may rest assured that in our particular profession the best will ever keep on the top of the wave for in nursing more perhaps than in most professions it may be said of the nurses "By their works ye shall know them" and to know the best is to employ them. Moreover there is in this sad old suffering world work in plenty for all, for the rich as well as the poor are always with us. Why the authorities persistently ignore the difference between trained and partially trained it is not given to us to understand and why payment and responsibility should not be proportionately distributed to those capable and those willing but incapable we do not know; and we fear that there is anything but a "good time coming" for the trained nurse after the war is over unless clearer sight should be meantime vouchsafed to those in power.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARIES

By Colonel S. E. Evans, I.M.S.

PART IV.

THE workers in a dispensary may be grouped under two heads. Paid and Voluntary. Honorary (voluntary) physicians are not employed for reasons already alluded to when dealing with the question of utilizing general practitioners. The voluntary staff consists entirely of ladies whose duties are mostly domiciliary but they may also help in the clerical and statistical (a very heavy item) work of the institution. At Arbour Square I saw a lady sharing the nurse's work among the patients in the waiting room. The duty of voluntary workers will be again referred to, they are mentioned here to draw attention to the influence their number has upon the strength of the paid staff employed especially under the heading 'Nurses'.

The unit staff for a dispensary may be stated as follows:—

One whole-time medical officer.
One whole-time nurse.
One dispenser-clerk.
One porter care-taker.
Half a dozen to a dozen voluntary workers.

The medical officer should devote his entire attention to the work. He is at the head of the dispensary and is absolutely responsible for every thing done in connection with it. He examines patients at the dispensary. He undertakes the bacterological examination of sputa and urine. He treats suitable cases at the dispensary or recommends them for admission to sana-

toria, open-air schools, or hospitals for advanced cases, as circumstances may demand. He gives advice on quite a number of points—marriage, residence, infection, change of air, employment. He pays regular visits to patients in their houses for purposes of domiciliary treatment, the detection of contacts, and the direction and supervision of general sanitary measures. He notifies all cases to the public health authorities and if necessary gets them to disinfect infected dwellings and to insist on alterations which would render them more habitable or diminish overcrowding. He does a considerable amount of clerical work largely in the direction of collecting information and compiling statistics. And lastly he undertakes the education of voluntary workers.

The nurse helps during dispensary hours in getting patients ready for examination, handing in their papers and assisting where assistance may be required, strapping a chest or disinfecting the site of a tuberculin injection for instance. She calls at the patient's house on the day following the first attendance at the dispensary, enquires into the social and economic conditions of the household, and takes note of the surroundings of the patient, special attention being paid to ventilation, overcrowding and dirt. On her return to the dispensary she fills up the 'Schedule of enquiry regarding Dispensary patient referred to in a previous paper. At her first visit she also advises as to the best way of carrying out the doctors instructions and the best way of preventing the spread of infection. She also prepares the way for the doctors visit and the examination of contacts. In some cases these are sent up to the dispensary in others a suitable hour is fixed when the doctor might find the whole family at home. She repeats her visit from time to time encouraging and inspiring efforts at improved general and personal sanitation, stimulating perseverance in fresh air and other treatment, and keeping the apparently healthy under surveillance. Dispensary nurses do no actual nursing. When an advanced case requires such attention some charitable organisation is appealed to. The Jubilee Nursing Association for instance in the case of Paddington and Kensington. In Edinburgh this is not so. The dispensary nurses do a certain amount of domiciliary nursing and in some cases even prepare meals for those left absolutely without attention. The dispenser and clerk are separate individuals in all but the smallest dispensaries and where a good deal of clerical assistance cannot be obtained from voluntary workers. Their functions need no elaboration. The porter can be a most useful person especially if he is "business like has a good memory for names and faces, is pleasant to work with, and makes himself friendly to the patients." He is a working man well acquainted with the district and the home conditions of its people. He lives on the premises, acts as care taker, and keeps the place clean. During visiting hours he receives patients on their arrival, takes charge of the waiting room, weighs patients each time they call, fills in certain elementary particulars on their case sheets and often shows them into the consulting room and hands in their papers.

Voluntary workers should have some knowledge of elementary hygiene. The medical officer should give them a regular course of lectures on the medical,

social, and economic aspect of tuberculosis laying very special stress on the general methods of prevention and they should also make a special study of one at least of the following subjects :—The care and nourishment of infants and children, the selection and preparation of food, the choice and apprenticeship to suitable trades for youths, and the finding of suitable employment for infected adults. The lady who acts as honorary secretary to the visiting committee will thus have at her command a number of highly trained visitors whom she can at the request of the medical officer in charge tell off for duty in any particular case. This duty consists in visiting patients regularly in their homes. The lady Visitor endeavours to gain the confidence and friendship of the family, and does very much what the nurse does. One of the honorary Secretary's very important functions is to deal with cases requiring material assistance. She may refer such cases to the Charity Organisation Society or in cases of special difficulty report to the advisory committee who take steps to decide whether they should be referred to the poor law or some other public or private agency or left alone. She can also help in the secretarial and statistical work of the dispensary. Both very heavy items.

(To be continued.)

LIFE IN BUSRA.

A Sketch by Nursing Sister.

BUSRA is situated 67 miles from the sea on the right bank of the Shaet-el-Arab. I believe its population including suburbs, numbers about 60,000. Arabs, Persians, Jews, and now of course Europeans and Indians.

But to be properly introduced to Busra I shall, at first, try and make you see it in the evening as the gorgeous sun sinks behind the date palms fringing the banks of the creeks and rivers. Imagine a broad river with every kind of craft plying to and fro, the Arab mahaylas, for all the world like the state barges of Queen Elizabeth with truly beautiful carving at prow and stern ; the bellam, the Arabian gondola, being lazily punted along, by which means we do our shopping. Red Cross motor launches, R. I. M. boats, B. I. steamers with the mail, hospital ships, convoys from up the river on the old Thames paddle boats these, and many others, go to make up the life of the river. I am always amused at the little motor launch, with its agressive puffing, darting between and before everything else, so like "impudence" amidst this slow, old world "dignity" of the East. As the Sun sinks lower the sky is tinged with a pale, purple, pinkish glow, the first shy stars appear, and the large waiting boats assume grey and mysterious shapes. It is at this moment, this brief twilight, that one holds ones breath at the unutterable weird beauty of it all and ones thoughts go back to that time and place, not very far from here, when the Lord God walked with man in the cool of the day.

After a time one wakes up to more mundane and material matters and takes a homeward way hoping that dinner will not be long-for fearsome does the appetite become as the colder weather sets in, and the poor Home