

THE EXPERIENCES OF A PRIVATE NURSE.

TRULY the life of a private nurse is full of variety ! Last January, another nurse and I were sent to a case of enteric fever at P——

We left Bombay by steamer. On landing at P—— we were told we had to go to a little village which lies on the coast 60 miles off, where the patient had been taken ill in camp. We had to go this part of the journey in a victoria across country and in the heat of the day. Oh, that drive ! it lasted for 6 hours, and we shall not soon forget it. On arriving at our destination we found that the patient was a raja.

Our accommodation was most limited. We had one double tent for both nurses, and as meals were served here for the nurse on day duty, it was not easy for the night nurse to get sufficient sleep. Our supplies of food such as bread, meat, fish, etc., came by steamer every two or three days, and if we ran short, we had to content ourselves and enjoy ? *dāl* and chappaties.

The water, unless boiled, was quite undrinkable.

Our tent was pitched on the ruins of an old temple, and for miles around the ground was considered sacred, therefore no life must be taken. Because of this we had several times to go without articles of diet which we should have much liked.

The place abounded in wild fowl and snipe, but alas ! these were only to be looked at, and one can imagine our feelings, when, after looking longingly at those birds, we had to sit down to a repast of *dāl* and chappaties.

The climate was glorious: very cold at nights with a fine breeze from the sea. We were cold under four blankets. Our tent was guarded by such funny looking policemen that we felt more afraid of them than of a gang of dacoits who were in the vicinity of the village. Often we were troubled by fleas, bugs, mosquitoes, crickets, cockroaches, snakes, etc., but were not supposed to kill them.

The patient was a very quiet, nice looking young Hindu. He had been suffering from fever for twelve days. On our arrival we found, to our horror, that he had been allowed to sit up in bed in order to take his medicine and food.

All the nourishment was kept under lock and key, and before he drank anything, one of his attendants had to taste it, in case poison had been introduced into the food.

The patient was very ill, with a temperature going up to 105. On his being ordered sponging, his people would only consent on condition that it should be done with goat's milk and hot water !

Fortunately the temperature dropped of its own accord, and we were saved this operation.

The case continued for four weeks, and during all this time we were never allowed to wash the patient properly. The only parts we might cleanse were his face and hands, and that only if the weather was not too cold. We were never allowed to be alone with him. The patient made a good recovery, and great was our delight when we were at liberty to return to civilization and Bombay.

I should like to add that every one shewed us kindness, and the people did their utmost to render our stay amongst them as pleasant as possible.

BOOK REVIEW.

"EYES RIGHT."

Papers for Teachers and Parents.

THIS is a pamphlet of 75 pages, price 8 annas, prepared by Dr. James M. Macphail, M.A., M.D., Santalia, and published by the Medical Missionary Association of India.

In his preface the writer says that experience of medical work among the village population of India has convinced him of the necessity, in India at least, of making the simple measures that are needed for the prevention of eye disease and the preservation of eyesight as widely known as possible. Almost every day children have been brought to his dispensary blind for life, whose eyes might have been saved by the early application of the simplest and cheapest remedies. He fears that the book will not reach the people who need it most, but hopes it will prove useful to teachers and to all others who have children under their care.

The book has a diagram of the eye in vertical section.

In six chapters it treats of

The Structure and Functions of the Eye.

The Hygiene of the Eye.

The Diseases of the Eye.

The first chapter describes, in as simple language as possible, the various parts of this wonderful member and how they are adapted to the purposes of vision. This description is necessary to enable the reader to understand and appreciate the efforts that are being made by oculists to prevent the eyesight of school children being permanently damaged by neglect.

The chapter on Hygiene tells of what is being actually done in Europe and America for the eyesight of children in schools by