

district nurse began work in Liverpool ; and in 1865 the reform of the workhouse nursing was inaugurated by Miss Agnes Jones and twelve nurses from St. Thomas's who took up the work in Liverpool. At this time England took a decided lead, which she has never lost. In Germany, the Albert Nursing Society was founded by Queen Carola of Saxony, and the Alice Society by the Grand Duchess Alice of Herse, both in 1867. In France, no change was made until 1877, when a training school was opened in Paris by the Municipality, and two others by the Assistance Publique, in connexion with the Salpetriere and Bicetre Hospitals. In the United States schools were opened in New York, New Haven and Boston in 1873. The British Colonies, Austria and other European countries followed some years later.

It remained for the third influence to complete the work begun and to develop systematic nursing to its present dimensions. Since 1880 the increasing demands of medical knowledge have well-nigh revolutionized the craft in the home, the hospital, and the workhouse. A large part of the change may be summed up in the words "scientific cleanliness." The outcome has been to raise the dignity of the calling, to induce persons of a superior class to adopt it in increasing numbers, to enlarge the demand for their services, and to multiply the means of educating them.—*Encyclopædia Britannica*.

THE FUTURE OF THE INDIAN NURSE.

I.

TO those of us who are engaged in the training of Indian women as nurses, a very important question, and one which gives us food for much anxious thought, is, what is to become of these women after they have finished their three years' training, and must pass on out of their Hospitals, to make room for others? Only a very few can get posts in the different Differin and Mission Hospitals and Government Dispensaries and a large majority of them must turn to Private Nursing. Here the great danger and difficulty lies! Large cities in India are full of 'so-called' Nursing Homes, owned by Indian Medical men of no repute or respectability. Temptation besets the girl almost from the day she leaves her Hospital, often very young and inexperienced, and with the Purdah customs and traditions in which her mother and her grandmother believed, and lived and died, still strong within her though outwardly she professes to have cast them off, she looses her head, gets reckless and falls an easy victim.

The only remedy seems to be, that Hospitals and Societies which undertake to train Indian Nurses should organize their own Nurse's

Homes, from which their young certified nurses can be sent out to suitable cases, backed by the protection of their Hospital authorities, and wearing its distinctive uniform. Here, in Calcutta, the Dufferin Fund Committee, recognizing the great necessity for such a step, have sanctioned a sufficient increase in the Private Nursing Staff to enable us to keep on our nurses after they have passed their final examinations, for a few years longer. I think there is no doubt that the nurses fees will quite cover the extra expenses incurred.

There is a scheme on foot too in Calcutta which has the support and hearty approval of Her Excellency, Lady Hardinge for organizing a Hostel for Indian nurses on somewhat the same scale as those already in existence for Lady Medical Students. The nurse paying so much a month for board and lodging, and taking all the fees she earns.

Another important question in connection with the Indian nurse is, what is the best class of girl to secure for training? The Countess of Dufferin Fund Committees are anxious that at least as many Hindu and Mohamedan women should be trained as Christians. The great difficulty in the former cases is getting reliable references. A husband and young family being about the only absolutely dependable ones. There is no doubt that really respectable Hindu and Mohamedan woman, willing to train as nurses are very very scarce. By far the most promising subjects, I find, are Christian girls taken straight from their Mission Schools. And if the Missions would only give us some of their most intelligent girls, instead of making them teachers and reserving for us those, whom by reason of their lack of intelligence, they think are only fit for nursing (!) we might turn out many most capable and creditable nurses. Next to the School girls I prefer to take the Married women, with husbands and young families. The least satisfactory are Christian women who have left their Mission Schools for some years, and bring a letter of recommendation from a native pastor, Hindu or Mohamedan women brought by their brothers and uncles, and with recommendations from native gentlemen who are landowners, and widows.

H. M. THACKER.

II.

After many years experience in India it is more and more impressed upon me that there are many difficulties in the training of "girls" as nurses. A girl of 17, is after 3 years training still quite unsuitable for responsibility or bazaar cases or private nursing. There is nothing suitable for her except marriage and that alas is not always procurable.

We in Mission Hospitals who train nurses are constantly having problems on our hands in these 3 year's certificated nurses who we don't

want ourselves and who no one else wants. These young women of 20 or 21 are quite ready and willing to go off to the large towns and there look for work, which no doubt they would find, but when we know that almost to a certainty would their lives be ruined we must do all in our power to keep them in safety even if we have to give larger salaries than they are worth for work we don't specially wish them to do. Therefore when we can get older women we are taking them even although their education is somewhat deficient. Intelligence and a desire to learn they must have or else it is quite hopeless trying to teach them. Here now when admitting new girls for training from other missions we make the mission sending them responsible for them after their 3 years' training, and if they cannot undertake this responsibility then we don't take them for training unless of course we require them for ourselves. I think a good step would be to do all in our power to persuade heads of schools to have trained nurses in charge of the children either as Matron or assistant Matron and sick nurse, never however, to think that because a trained nurse is in charge a doctor's services are not required. Those in charge of schools could be encouraged to send for training girls of their own that they would be glad to take back again as school nurses after training, they would then realize perhaps that because a girl is unsuited for anything else she will therefore do for a nurse!

A. L. STEIN.

Our life is compassed round with necessity ; yet is the meaning of Life itself no other than Freedom, than Voluntary Force: . . . in the beginning, especially, a hard-fought battle. For the God-given mandate, "*Work thou in well-doing*," lies mysteriously written in our hearts ; and leaves us no rest, night or day, till it be deciphered and obeyed ; till it burn forth in our conduct, a visible, acted Gospel of Freedom.—*Carlyle (Sartor Resartus)*.

Let every dawn of morning be to you as the beginning of life ; and every setting sun be to you as its close ; then let every one of these short lives leave its sure record of some kindly thing done for others, some goodly strength or knowledge gained for yourselves.—*Ruskin*.

DALHOUSIE—A lady will be glad to receive Missionaries and Nurses as paying guests, rooms available Augt. to end of October—Apply Miss Michel, "Sunnyside," Dalhousie, Punjab.