

later in the *American Journal of Nursing*: but a fair classification is as follows:—

Notes on Nursing, 3 English editions, 9 American editions.

Notes on Nursing for the Labouring Classes, 5 English editions.

Two writings upon administration, sanitation, etc., of the British Army,

Eight upon the administration, organization, etc., of civil and military hospitals.

Eight dealing specifically with the training of nurses.

Three on the subject of public sanitation of cities and towns.

Ten upon miscellaneous allied topics.

Six writings upon India, as follows: "Observations on the Sanitary State of the Army in India," "Life or Death in India," "The People of India," "Our Indian Stewardship," "The Dumb shall Speak and the Deaf shall Hear," and "Health Missioners for Rural India."

The managers of this most noteworthy exhibit have printed an attractive catalogue of the collection which also contains a short biographical sketch of Florence Nightingale and a medallion of the statuette of her, which was on view. On Wednesday, May 18th, when the two societies of nurses held a meeting commemorative of Miss Nightingale and of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of training schools, a telegram of greeting and loyal devotion was sent to Miss Nightingale in London.

RUTH BREWSTER SHERMAN

HOW ARE WE TO OBTAIN A HIGHER CLASS OF INDIAN GIRL FOR TRAINING?

IS IT WISE TO RAISE THE STANDARD?

BY MISS ANNIE R. CREIGHTON.

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(Read at the Agra Conference).

THE raising of the standard is absolutely necessary, but when we get the better class girl she will do that herself, so the question of how to obtain a better class of girl is before us.

As yet the Indian people have not realized the greatness of the life of a nurse. Many of them have not yet lost sight of the footprints of their grandmothers, but plant their own firmly in them. "Old habits die hard."

We who stand as Superintendents and examples in the nursing profession have upon us the responsibilities of being ourselves true nurses and then choosing the right persons with whom we can entrust such responsible and noble work. With how much tact and firmness and gentleness must the training be done!

We have some good nurses in our hospitals in the United Provinces, but how to get enough of them is our difficulty. Most of them are from the Central Provinces, Rajputana, and Bengal. The United Provinces is the most backward of any of the provinces in the education of girls. In the whole province there are about twenty-five Anglo-Vernacular schools and most of these are orphanages. They begin to teach English in the third standard. The most intelligent of the girls are drafted on to the schools to study for teaching, and yet the schools are at their wits' end to know how to get enough teachers. In Zenana work, too, the cry is for more teachers, so it is easy to see what difficulty we Superintendents have to get enough girls, let alone the right kind of girl. Then it must be remembered also that the Native Christian woman usually aims at being a teacher, doctor or compounder and I think that many of the hospital assistants should have been nurses and not doctors.

In Bengal they seem to have a fairly good class of girls as nurses. Very few are in *purdah* and so there are more to choose from who have freedom and are better educated and in consequence have broader views. The United Province girl does not seem to understand the status of a nurse. She looks at nursing in a superficial way and so sees nothing but hard work, long hours and the trying night-work and, of course, looking at it in this way only nursing is certainly not inviting.

Here are a few suggestions which might be of use to those of us who want to get the best of Indian girls to take up a nurse's training. And first of all we must be enthusiastic and spread about correct ideas of nursing and literature on the subject. In other words we must advertise. Then we must draw from wherever we can get good girls and having put them through a course of probation not be afraid to send them back if they prove unsuitable. I am in favour of having probationers pay a small fee. If payment must be made a guardian will not send a girl unless he thinks her capable and she will value the training more and think better of her profession if it has cost money to learn it, for she knows that if her brothers enter professions they have fees to pay. In special cases the hospital might give scholarships.

The girls must be made to understand that it is not domestic service they have come to take up but that they are in training for a profession and that the manual work is the practical part of the training. I do not approve of the use of force at any time, for under such discipline a girl becomes discontented, and this discontent spreads and spoils the harmony of the school. Classes and lectures should be made hours of pleasure, and making much of their examinations and perhaps the giving of prizes will help to make the work interesting. A Superintendent should help her nurses to get good posts after graduation and their pay should be not less than Rs. 12 a month, going up to Rs. 20 a month and to Rs. 30 if they are doing matron's work.

The pupil nurses in hospitals and those holding positions outside speak

for the profession. A good class will draw a good class. Of course there is no caste amongst Christians, but I think that those who come from a good caste of Hindus and the better class of Mahomedans are more satisfactory than those from the lower castes and classes. Lower caste girls very seldom have the clean ways and natural etiquette of the higher castes. Christian girls who come from the higher classes will give your hospital a better standing, for the people recognize at once from what caste people come, although they may have been Christians for years.

For the girls of this country it is true the hours are long and the work hard. How would it do to have ward maids in our hospitals? There is much cleaning that could be done by them and this would give work to a number of girls of less intelligence and might many times save a good girl from breaking down. When a nurse is over tired we cannot expect her to have a loving sweet temper and to remember all the little details there are to do in nursing as when she is fresh and well.

At present the usefulness of the nursing profession in India lies in the hands of those who choose and train its future representatives. May we have wisdom, strength and faithfulness in our difficult task of giving a name to that which at present in India has no name and of building up and bringing into nobleness that which is considered ignoble.

IF we are to plan our lives in accordance with the teachings of Jesus, if we are to know how best to render service to others we must, in youth, undertake this preparation, and we must bear it in mind throughout our work. Modern knowledge of hygiene and careful study of the effects of social pleasures of different kinds, have led modern physicians to the opinion that a reasonable amount of relaxation, even of enjoyable society, is essential for the proper development and conservation of our strength and our abilities. However much enjoyment, therefore, we may get from social pleasures, we may still have the consciousness that if these pleasures are properly organized and employed they will tend to fit us better for performing the duties of life and rendering service to society.

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