

The pioneer nurse, Miss Sutherland, whose unremitting labors are well known on these shores, sacrificed her life in this cause. So endless were the demands on her time and strength, so great the strain and responsibility, when the doctor had to divide his time between hospital and ship, leaving her sometimes absolutely alone, that one could only marvel at the endurance which kept her at her post till a few hours before her death, practically in harness to the last. This twentieth century has its martyrs too, though the burning stake and the gleaming sword and the Inquisitorial tortures are things of the past. This sad event seemed to give an impetus to the work and funds came in more rapidly, till the Columbia Hospital at Van Anda was opened two years ago, and recently a third at Alert Bay.

Rock Bay is pre-eminently the loggers' hospital, Van Anda the miners', and Alert Bay more or less heterogeneous in character, a cannery, several mines and logging camps, a quarry and an Indian settlement being in close proximity to it. The small beginning of 1905 has now developed into a mission of some magnitude. At each hospital there is a resident surgeon, with head and one assistant nurse, and a kitchen helper. On the "Columbia," Mr. Anth acts as captain, with an engineer, an assistant officer and a cook. A monthly outlay of \$1,500 for the maintenance of the entire work is thus involved, much of which is necessarily of an expensive nature. Subscriptions are now being asked for a larger vessel, which will not be dependent on tides and will travel at greater speed, thus making a definite schedule possible and so facilitating the transit of accident cases to the nearest hospital or securing immediate surgical aid on board. At present such cases usually arrive in rowboats or in the small gasoline launchés so much in vogue.

Dr. Harrington, the popular medico at Rock Bay, is an instance of the happy combination resulting from English parentage, a boyhood spent in the West, capped by an eastern college education (McGill). His unfailing enthusiasm, his keenness and adaptability are strikingly displayed in a position of responsibility, demanding varied powers and endless tact. An Old Country nurse would have been shocked to find the medical officer hauling her baggage upstairs, fetching hot water for the tired visitor, helping to clear the table and at times even to cook. The strict discipline maintained was, however, most marked. My mild request for a glass of water, made to the Jap orderly, was answered by "I must ask the Doctor," who forthwith handed it out from the kitchen! The Jap thought I was a private patient, who had strayed from her pen, and hence referred to the doctor for orders.

The "simple life" is certainly followed here and the devotion of those who, fitted by birth and education to take good positions in refined and luxurious surroundings, give up some of the best years of their lives to further the Mission work, provides food for thought as to why others should be so backward in providing the "sinews" of mission work, in lieu of personal service. I may suggest to those who prefer to give to a definite object that the operating room is very poorly equipped, the instruments are few and kept in a home-made cupboard, the boarding itself not being anywhere near the aseptic standard which should characterize a modern operating room. A new

clothing, education and medical care of the younger boys, who, as Mrs. Corker regretfully remarked, "eat as much or more, work less, and require more care than the older lads," for whom the sum of \$120 is given.

Perhaps some of those who rave over "The Vanishing Race" or other engravings by the "prince of photographers," Mr. Curtis, or who delight in their collection of Indian baskets and other curios, may in a meditative moment ask themselves whether they owe no debt to the descendants of those who showed the way to those sources of natural wealth with which Canada is so richly endowed. Surely the essentials of life should be secured to them and every means used to prevent their being "a byword among the nations," as a result of contact with so-called Christian civilization. Surely the firm hand of the stronger brother could, with wisdom and tact, put down that crying evil of the potlache with its attendant immorality, which prevents the more enlightened but timid Catechumen from definitely embracing the Christian religion and following the purer life, which increased knowledge and civilization should bring.

The C. M. S. is gradually withdrawing its grant and up to the present there is no equivalent increase of subscriptions forthcoming. Mrs. Corker of Alert Bay, B.C., would gladly supply any further details on application.

After a pleasant stay of nearly two days at Alert Bay I took steamer down to Van Anda. Van Anda is situated on the Island of Texada and is pre-eminently the miners' hospital, as there are four mines within reach, gold, silver and copper. In all the population amounts to 500 and there are of course other small settlements within reach, who look to this hospital to supply their medical and nursing needs. The advent of Dr. Kemp, so well known in Toronto, has given a fresh impetus to the work, whilst his own health has improved greatly during his residence in these healthful surroundings. He has thrown himself into the work with great enthusiasm and has proved that a change of work and surroundings is often more beneficial to some temperaments than an enforced "rest cure." The hospital is in reality an adapted opera house, and the building has certainly lent itself well to the change. A well-ventilated ward on either side of the corridor is relegated to women and men respectively, each opening on to a fine piazza, one having a forest, the other a sea view. The operating and consulting rooms, fairly equipped, are adjacent, also bath and toilet rooms, two private rooms complete the present accommodation, which is often in full requisition. The doctor's and nurses' rooms are in the centre opening into the living room, which was apparently the former stage, whilst the "green-room" now acts as kitchen, where a Chinaman holds sway. More healthful surroundings could hardly be imagined, the position being high, facing the sea, surrounded by a fir forest and open to sunshine the livelong day.

There is a neighboring church, where Presbyterian and Episcopal ministers alike officiate, ministering indiscriminatingly to the various nationalities here represented. Perhaps the greatest need is for funds to complete the walls. The most practical method appears to be to cover the ceilings with very thin sheets of metal, which can be painted, forming an effective barrier to the sawdust and the high winds, whilst the walls above the wainscoting

can be covered with Sanitas paper. A second bathroom is also badly needed for use of the staff and also a better road, for the present rocky, uneven path leading to the hospital from the wharf must occasion extreme pain to ambulance cases. The present patients were operation, accident and eclampsia cases, with several operations pending.

The steamers are by no means "certain quantities" and Labor Day having called for a rush through, bringing the steamer two hours ahead of time caused an unfortunate delay, through my missing her, at the other ports. I had on the other hand lost many hours' sleep through her tardiness. However, a trip to the opposite shore in a gasoline launch enabled me to take a small coaster and finally make connections. As the steamer makes its way amongst the numerous islands and inlets of this rocky coast of British Columbia, dropping or taking up here and there one or two men and more occasionally a woman from an open boat or an anchored float, or possibly with most adroit seamanship tying up at a small wooden pier, one is struck with an extreme sense of isolation. A sense of admiration also fills one for those who thus elect to fight more or less alone against Nature's forces, who from circumstances, perhaps, but just as often from choice, are laboring hard, with a sense of satisfaction that they are daily accomplishing a definite work which justifies their existence and would otherwise be left undone, which gives relish to the meals and a happy recollection of the dollars accumulating to their account (\$2.50 to \$3.00 per diem).

These are the pioneers to whom we owe so much in developing the resources of the country, who, whether as managers of logging, mining, quarry or cannery companies, or just as truly in the more humble capacity of employes are preparing the way for the more delicately nurtured, in some instances the more weak-kneed and more selfish crowds that will follow as soon as the country is opened up, thus offering some solution to that most terrible of problems—the army of the unemployed.

All these camps and villages are dependent on these steamers for the necessities of life. Often a kindly captain will caution an over-zealous logger or freight clerk against the risk of an over-weighted boat and will await his return for a second load of the flour, "spuds," meat, bacon, vegetables and groceries, which form the bulk of the camp food.

One looks and shudders at the long stretches of inaccessible coast, with no space even for the numerous logs, resulting from natural decay, storms, broken-down booms and possibly thrown in as the quickest way of clearing the land. To students of nature and the "simple life" I can recommend a trip up the west coast and am assured they will see the immense benefit of the Columbia Coast Mission to the isolated inhabitants.

Rock Bay, B.C.—Total number of cases, 120; medical cases, 36; surgical cases, 81; gynaecological cases, 2; obstetric cases, 1; number of operations, 82; number of deaths, 4; number of hospital days, 2,645; number of outdoor patients, 275; number of outdoor dressings, 813; number of prescriptions dispensed, 390; number of beds, 20; number of nurses, 2.

M. A. ELLISON.