

nurses were properly trained, they would find no opening waiting for them; and that their training would lead to no permanent employment. But general principles are sometimes too comprehensive, and do not fit in to every particular question. It is quite easy for the public to be conscious of a want, and yet for them to accept as inevitable the blank they would wish to see occupied.

It is not for a moment intended to suggest that the present nurse is to be supplanted. It is felt that her work might in some cases be well *supplemented* by the male nurse. For example, how often it happens that when a patient becomes delirious and unmanageable, that an attendant has to be sent for to keep the patient in bed, and the help forthcoming is that of a porter, or some helper belonging to the Institution, who has but the crudest ideas of handling and lifting the patient.

We will now see what is the position of male nurses at home and abroad. In the military hospitals the nursing is carried on by orderlies working under the supervision of a sister. She is naturally a fully-trained nurse, but from the number of cases in her wards it is impossible for her to give much attention to each individual case, or much instruction to the orderly, and the training therefore given in this department cannot be considered satisfactory.

Upon consulting a paper on military nursing by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, I find she makes the following remarks with regard to the training of orderlies in military hospitals:—'The orderlies for the most part are men who have enlisted in the Medical Staff Corps for three, seven, or twenty-one years. It is a remarkable fact, however, that this does not mean that these men are devoted to nursing, or to ambulance work alone. They are required to do all the work in connection with the hospital at which they are stationed. They may be, and they are, called upon to act as cooks, gardeners, clerks, window-cleaners, floor-scrubbers, store-keepers, servants to the medical officers, mess-waiters, anything and everything, in short, and finally, occasionally as nurses. It is impossible to approve of a system which withdraws a man from cooking, or gardening, and places him in responsible charge of a sick or wounded comrade whose life may, and very probably will, depend upon his carefulness, his gentleness, or his experienced obedience to medical instructions. As if this were not enough, the orderly nurse may be ordered out of the ward by the Non-Commissioned Officer on duty, to go on drill, or on parade, or to do coaling, or some other fatigue duty, and it is no uncommon occurrence, I am told, for the Nursing Sister to come on duty in the morning, and find her patients in bed, perhaps, but her nurses out on the parade ground. These facts I have verified by careful inquiry, for I frankly

confess that when I was first informed of them I regarded them as incredible. . . I desire, as I said at first, to avoid the slightest appearance of sensationalism or exaggeration. I have been told of glaring instances in which our soldiers have suffered from the lack of proper care and attention in illness, both in transport and in our military hospitals, but I content myself with drawing attention only to the obvious results which must follow from such a system as that which I have shown to be in force. In the Lock Wards, into which the Nursing Sisters do not go, there is no trained supervision at all, and it is easy to understand that, in consequence, the wards are noisy, untidy, and the patients unruly, that they are not properly washed or attended to, and that they are, therefore, obliged to stay in Hospital much longer than would be necessary if they had skilled care. The Nursing Sisters, in fact, are expected to make bricks without straw. They are given assistants who are not specially selected for their work, who are, as a rule, indifferent to the manner in which that work is carried out, and who naturally can take neither pride nor interest in it knowing that they may be in the wards to-day, and drafted off to work in the various departments of the hospital to-morrow. It is impossible for one woman to do justice to a hundred sick persons, or to even attempt to give them the attention they need, and, I would add, the care that they deserve. The whole system requires to be re-organised and reformed, and I would suggest that the best educated and most carefully-selected recruits of the Army Medical Service Corps should be placed aside and detailed for the work of nursing alone; that they should be systematically trained in the duties which they have to perform, that they should be kept to nursing work and to nothing else, and that for three years at least they should be retained in the service of one hospital unless, indeed, war broke out and they were required elsewhere. The Medical Staff, I feel confident, would gladly welcome such an arrangement; the Nursing Sisters, I am equally sure, would not only welcome such a reform but would gladly do all in their power to improve the efficiency of their assistants by instructing them in the best methods of attendance upon the sick, and the authority of a non-commissioned officer between the Nursing Sister and her male pupil should be eliminated from our military nursing system. By this means, in the short space of three years, a reliable staff of thoroughly trained orderlies could be formed who would be able in their turn to take superior posts in the service, and not only to train the orderlies of the future, but also to take charge of the Lock Wards and to act as Night Superintendents. There is a

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