

woman a chance." Of course, as a Doctor, and from the point of view of common sense, she saw that the confirmation of an appointment in the case of Public Services should be left to the Surgeon-General, or Medical Superintendent; but the preliminary examination of professional and moral qualifications, and the winnowing out of undesirable candidates, should be in the hands of women-Matrons and trained nurses by preference.

MRS. WILLIAM B. RICKMAN spoke entirely from the point of view of a laywoman and a mother. Everybody who had girls and boys must feel that there was a very important point to be considered in regard to Naval and Military Nursing. Personally, she was in favour of male nurses—men made excellent nurses—and it was a very serious matter to send young women to distant stations to take up this work. It was ridiculous to say that because a nurse put on a uniform she ceased to be a woman. She was in constant intercourse with her patients, and it was a serious step, both as regarded the woman and the man she nursed. If men were carefully trained for work in Military Hospitals, she thought it would be an excellent thing.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK prefaced her remarks by saying there was no such thing as sex in nursing. That disposed of the whole question of the nursing of men by women. The question of Military Nursing was one in which she had been personally interested for ten years. In 1889, she sent up a scheme to the War Office with regard to the organising of a Military Nursing Reserve in Great Britain. It was acknowledged by the Director-General of the Army Medical Department, and he promised his serious and sympathetic consideration, but she had never heard of it again. Failing to enlist the interest of the Medical Department of the War Office, she again, in 1893, brought the sketch of a scheme before the Royal British Nurses' Association, suggesting a reserve of trained nurses for Great Britain. This idea was warmly received, and several committees considered it; a preliminary organisation was started, and they had every hope that the Association would for once carry out its duty to the nurses and the public; but later it was thought better to organize the service of reserve nurses directly under the authority of the War Office: that reserve had been organized, and they looked forward to hearing of its effecting real reforms and efficiency in the future nursing of soldiers. As Superintendent of Nursing of the National Fund in the late Græco-Turkish War, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick found it the first essential for the care of the sick and wounded soldiers that they should be nursed as far as possible upon the same system as prevails in well-organized civil hospitals, so that in each hospital organized by the English, there was a chief medical officer, a Superintendent Sister, Nursing Sisters, and Greek orderlies. The latter, gentle and domesticated fellows, were kindly and intelligent, but quite ignorant of skilled nursing, but as probationers they were found very helpful—the actual care of the sick, and all the necessary personal attention being deputed to the Nursing Sisters, by which means the wounded soldiers were speedily restored to health; this detail of organization of the nursing of the sick by trained women, and not by untrained men, was the keynote of the success of the English system, and so successful were the results of the nursing of soldiers by English women, that Her Royal Highness the Crown Princess

of Greece, gave them preference in attending the sick in the Ecole Militaire and Military Hospital in Athens. Since the war, the old Military Hospital, an obsolete building, has been razed to the ground, and owing to the exertions of the Crown Princess, a fine new Military Hospital has been erected on the site, fitted with modern improvements; and this hospital is staffed by English Nursing Sisters, who are engaged in active nursing duties, not merely in supervising untrained orderlies. The sick soldier required the same highly-skilled nursing as the sick civilian, and it should be provided for him by a grateful nation.

Mrs. Fenwick warmly endorsed the suggestion made both by Mrs. Quintard and Captain Norton that there should be a conjoint Board of medical and nursing authorities to organize and supervise Government Nursing Services, and hoped this reform would be effected at an early date.

MRS. QUINTARD fully understood Mrs. Rickman's feeling as to the advisability of men Nurses. There was more or less objection to girls nursing in Military Hospitals, and if the same class of person could be trained for male nurses, as was available for women nurses, that plan might suffice; but those who had had to deal with orderlies in hospitals knew that this was not the case, and she thought that no one who, like herself, had seen the conditions which prevailed in a military hospital nursed by men would desire that they should be placed in charge of the male sex. The necessity for the care of trained and efficient women nurses was abundantly proved. The men who presented themselves for training in well-organized schools, were a far less educated and refined class than the women, and men should be cared for in Army Hospitals as efficiently as they were in Civilian Hospitals. Under existing conditions, paupers in the street received far better care when they were ill than the soldier who went out to fight for his country.

This ended the Discussion on "Naval and Military Nursing."

MRS. MAY WRIGHT SEWALL stated that she had learnt much that morning, and was greatly impressed. From the beginning of recorded time, nursing had been the particular province of women, and all the speakers had shown how Legislation touched this profession at every point. Did not this demonstrate the interest that must be taken, by women who took up this work, in the Legislation which should prescribe the rules and conditions under which that specific occupation was to be carried out.

The Chairman then moved the adjournment of the Meeting.

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The importance of the subject matter of the above paper and discussion may, without exaggeration, be said to be international. Our American cousins have had the need for an Army Nursing Service forced upon their attention by the stern necessities of an unexpected war; and how wisely and well the Anglo-Saxon once more met the gravest difficulties is beginning to be understood on both sides of the Atlantic. Those difficulties have certainly elicited the most cordial sympathy of English men and women.

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