

and releasing R.A.M.C. people for the front. Speaking purely as a civilian and a Colonial practitioner, I cannot go altogether with this. It is a great mistake to suppose that the ordinary civil nurse is fit for military work. At the station base hospitals, owing to the large preponderance of venereal cases, it would obviously be impossible to employ them, whilst even at the general hospitals there are great difficulties in the way. Women submit far less kindly to discipline than men, and the Colonial nurses—albeit many of them are most excellent women—have in most cases never been under even the same discipline as that to which their British Sisters have to submit. The Colonial period of probation has hitherto been only two years, and only a limited number of women are registered even under that probation. Moreover in the Transvaal there is no official regulation of nurses at all, and a large number of the Johannesburg "nurses" have never had any proper training in their lives. Moreover it is a matter of common repute (and in saying this I make no reflection on the general body) that to put the case mildly, only too many of the nurses from the Golden City are not so staid as the requirements of military discipline demand. To avoid friction between Colonial nurses on the one hand and the R.A.M.C., and still more Army Nursing Sisters, on the other, would be a difficult task. I know that the latter ladies hold this view, and, after many years of experience as a hospital administrator in the Colony, I can endorse it. Of course a few suitable Colonial nurses could be selected, but the task of selection would be very difficult."

The nurses of the Yeomanry Hospital had a most enthusiastic send-off from Waterloo on Saturday, and sailed in the *Guelph* on that day for the Cape.

THE following Nursing Sisters will embark on Saturday, 24th, for South Africa:—Nursing Sister L. W. Tulloh, R.R.C., Army Nursing Service, and Sisters M. B. Pertwee, G. G. Styles, C. M. M. Howard, J. Lovett, E. M. Rowley, R. J. Briggs, E. M. Chamberlain, H. Whiteford, of the Reserve.

Miss L. W. Tulloh saw active service in Egypt in 1889, and, in 1897, was awarded the Royal Red Cross.

Sister H. Whiteford was one of the thirty Sisters selected by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick for service in Greece, during the late war, and has since received the Diploma and Commemorative Medal of the Greek Red Cross.

Thus, four of the Sisters who worked in the military hospitals in Greece are now chosen for service in South Africa—Sisters Davies, Davidson, Johnstone, and Whiteford. Their former experience will, doubtless, be of service to the wounded, as they are amongst the very limited number of Army Nursing Reserve Sisters who have any practical experience of military nursing.

"Now, we shan't be long."

STATE Registration for Nurses is now being seriously discussed in the United States by Matrons and nurses, and, of course, there is but one point of view for the experienced graduate. And that is, that some form of legal status and protection must, ere long, be obtained, so we have little doubt that these energetic self-helpful women will soon arrange things to their liking.

The question was lately discussed by Miss Palmer and Miss Allerton, at Rochester, before the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs, a society composed of thousands of the leading women workers in the States; and as the question is one which intimately concerns the general public as well as trained nurses, the nurses do well to enlist the sympathy of their sisters in other walks of life.

STATE EXAMINATIONS FOR NURSES.

BY MISS SOPHIA PALMER.

I WISH to devote the little time allowed me to the consideration of a subject which I believe to be of great importance to all people in this State who are interested in nursing matters.

The idea is not original, but what I shall say is with special reference to the nursing requirements and the educational laws of the State of New York. The greatest need in the nursing profession to-day is a passage of a law that shall place training schools for nurses under the supervision of the University of the State of New York. The difficulties under which we labour are these:—

There are a great number of small hospitals, special private hospitals, and sanitariums that use a training school as the cheapest form of service for their patients.

There is no way for the public to discriminate between a diploma issued by one of these schools and the diploma of a school connected with an incorporated general hospital giving a full term of instruction in all branches of nursing.

A woman whose experience is confined to one branch of nursing is not a trained nurse in the fullest sense of the term; yet the profession is flooded with such women, who are thrown upon the public as competent nurses.

Such a law would reach another type of women, the discharged pupil, or, as she is known in the profession, the rejected probationer, the woman, who for cause, physical or moral, has been dropped from a training school, but continues to wear the uniform, which there is no law to prevent her doing, and to pose as a graduate from this school from which she has been discharged.

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