

Annual clothing allowance abroad...	£4	7	0
" " " at home ...	4	0	0
Triennial winter cloak allowance ...	2	0	0
" summer cloak allowance...	1	5	0

Stupendously lavish War Office! Where, oh! where was our close-fisted Chancellor of the Exchequer when these extravagant arrangements for luxurious female nurses were made?

To offer thoroughly trained nurses after a three years' course of study, and perhaps as many years' practical experience in nursing the sick through the most responsible and intricate operations, or through medical diseases where even life depended upon their skill and good faith, the astonishing sum of 2s. 2½d. a day! and to encourage the wicked and lavish luxury of expending £4 upon the adornment of her vile body *per annum*, not to mention those triennial garments, the winter and summer cloaks, calls for the instant passing of sumptuary laws whereby such wasting of the nation's substance may be curtailed!

That the noble Marquis, enveloped in the cloak of Mars—by whose decree the Army Nursing Service Reserve was called into being—should approve these gratuities and allowances is not surprising; no doubt he thinks nothing of a mere £1,000 pin-money for a titled dame; but what of the so-called professional element on the "Reserve" Committee? We cannot believe that these "ardent friends of nurses" can have stood by, and in agreeing to this stupendous scale of pay encouraged Army nurses to frisk along the broad path of extravagance which leads inevitably to destruction—without one warning word—2s. 2½d. a day! And just imagine the condition of those triennial cloaks after three campaigns!! but we will save our readers the harrowing sight.

Joking apart, the labourer is worthy of his hire, and if the Army Reserve Committee have found any difficulty in obtaining nurses for work in South Africa, they are themselves entirely to blame, for offering these highly skilled and devoted women-workers, the wretched pay and allowances at which unskilled labour at the dock gate and the wash-tub would snort. And we can point to no more conclusive proof of the futility and foolishness of nurses permitting themselves and their professional affairs to be exploited by the professional philanthropist than to mark the history, from first to last, of the Army Nursing Reserve movement. Let nurses compare the salary and allowances

arranged for them by the R.B.N.A. medical clique who largely compose the Reserve Committee, and those offered by the Committee of the National Fund for the Greek Wounded in the late war, which acted upon the advice of a trained nurse.

SALARY.

Army Nursing Reserve, per week...	£0	15	4½
National Fund	2	2	0

ALLOWANCES.

(Board and Washing.)

Army Nursing Reserve, per week...	1	1	0
National FundAll Found.		

CLOTHING.

Army Nursing Reserve (annually)	5	8	4
National Fund (3 months)...	15	0	0

Here, indeed, is a practical lesson in the benefit of self-government for women workers. May nurses take the lesson to heart.

Annotations.

THE PRESS ON THE MATRON'S COUNCIL.

It is a matter of congratulation for the Matrons' Council that the lay press has accorded so much valuable space to reporting the Conference held last week and we have to thank the *Times* for devoting no less than a whole column to the subject. We have before us a pile of cuttings from both London and Provincial papers, which show that the questions discussed at the Conference have excited widespread interest. The *Manchester Evening Mail* evidently knows what it is talking about, when it says:—"Inasmuch as the aforesaid British matrons have decided to approach the Government on the necessity of having an organised nursing system attached to all Government offices dealing with the sick, the general opinion will be that the ladies in the end will prevail, and will be more likely to bring about reform, than all the Parliamentary committees of inquiry which may be suggested."

It is a somewhat significant fact that the two leading medical papers, the *Lancet* and *British Medical Journal*, omit to mention the deliberations of this important conference of trained matrons. We fear this "boycott" of nursing matters by the medical press is one reason for the distrust of, and antagonism to, medical men, so strongly demonstrated of late in the House of Commons in relation to the Midwives Bill and South African hospital affairs. Anyway, it is a policy unworthy of up-to-date journalism, and futile withal.

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