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Editorial.

A WELCOME INNOVATION.

WE have been informed on good authority that a new departure has been made by the War Office in replacing, in many instances, the men of the Royal Army Medical Corps by women nurses—principally members of the Army Nursing Reserve.

We understand that the arrangement is an experiment, and therefore at present a temporary one, but there is every reason to hope that now it has been made the women nurses will prove by the value of the services they render that they are indispensable, and that therefore they will be retained as a permanency. There is every reason why it should be so for it has been abundantly demonstrated that women make as a rule far better nurses than men and though here and there men succeed, the number of those who are possessed of the qualifications which go to make a good nurse are comparatively few.

It must also be noted in connection with this innovation that the nurses introduced to take the place of the orderlies in our military

hospitals at home are trained women. The ordinary orderly is not trained as training is understood in civil hospitals, and therefore the standard of nursing in those hospitals where women nurses have been introduced will inevitably be raised.

Another point to which we have from time to time drawn attention will also be affected by this new arrangement, namely, that an opportunity will thus be afforded to members of the Army Nursing Reserve to obtain experience of military nursing before they are sent out on active service. It is quite impossible that the Reserve should attain to the highest standard of efficiency so long as its members are collected from all parts of the Kingdom, and despatched to the seat of war without previous opportunity for acquiring knowledge of the routine of work in a military hospital, and for establishing the *esprit de corps* which is developed amongst any body of persons working together to a common end. On all counts, therefore, we congratulate the War Office on the present arrangement, and hope to hear that it has become a permanency, and that future organization may be developed on these lines.

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