

Army Nursing Notes.

WE are very pleased to note that the War Office authorities have been influenced to greater liberality in the scale of allowances for the Army Nursing Sisters in South Africa than was contemplated at the outset, and there is no doubt that the Sisters have fared better than they anticipated in respect to remuneration. Most of them thought that, owing to the expense of living, they would not be so well off as they were at home with £40 a year and £20 gratuity. Each ordinary Nursing Sister receives, with her pay, gratuity, and allowances, at the rate of £206 a year, out of which she has to disburse about £60 for food and fuel, servants, and washing, while a Superintendent gets about £20 more.

As usual, this journal had the honour of voicing the necessity for more generous treatment of the Nursing Service and Reserve by the War Office. It is satisfactory to find that our views have found favour with the authorities. But we still object to that £20 gratuity. The scale of a Nursing Sister's salary should be a fixed one, and she should have a legal claim on the sum arranged, that one-third of her salary should be optional upon the part of the authorities is very undesirable, and might lead to injustice. We should like to see the scale of pay somewhat increased—Superintendent Sisters to receive £3 a week, and Junior Sisters £2 as salary, when on active service, with everything found. Perhaps this point may receive consideration in the near future.

We fear enteric fever is on the increase at the seat of war, and regret to chronicle the death of Nursing Sister Annie Matheson, and that the following are dangerously ill:—Nursing Sisters Sarah Siddons, Annie Thomas, Dorothy Fletcher, all of enteric, at Pretoria.

We are glad to see that *Truth* has been criticising the wisdom of the Medical Department of the War Office in employing unprofessional agencies to enlist nurses for the "Reserve." It appears that Mr. Ley, of the West London Nursing Association, receives 7s. a week out of the salaries of the nurses supplied by him! We are entirely one with *Truth* on this question, and would, moreover, like to know what are Mr. Ley's qualifications for "farming" nurses. "Nursing agencies" officered by medical men are bad enough, but what type of nurse hires herself out to a layman? All these are intensely interesting questions from a professional point of view. Perhaps the Army Nursing Service Reserve Committee will answer them.

The American Nursing World.

[By our Special Correspondent.]

NURSING ORGANIZATION IN NEW YORK STATE.

Knowing that you are interested in State recognition of nurses, I will tell you what is being done in New York State, in forming an organization able to take up this bit of work.

The Committee appointed to get up a Convention, whose names you have already had, have begun an active canvass of the State. About fifty training schools have been listed, as well as general nursing associations, clubs, and the like, and have been divided among the Committee members. Some of these have gone in person to address their people, others have written, setting forth the objects and plan of State organization, and all have asked that a delegate be chosen from each and every organized body of nurses, to come to the Convention (which will most likely be held in Albany some time in January), empowered with authority to act in framing a State organization.

In Albany, where one of these preliminary talks was held, no less a person than one of the Regents of the University of New York State came to the meeting to hear what the nurses wanted to do, and to assure them of the support of the Regents in any educational reform they may have occasion to seek from the law makers. He also gave the nurses an interesting account of the gradual establishment and improvement of the medical laws of New York. He advised us to begin, as they did, with only a statute requiring that every one seeking to practise in the State should have their diploma registered in the office of the County Clerk. No examination at first, and no discrimination between diplomas; that would have to come later.

The medical men were defeated for ten years in succession before they finally succeeded in passing so simple a law even as this. He therefore cautioned the nurses against expecting too much at first, and advised that the greatest liberality would be necessary toward all reputable women who were now practising as nurses, even though they might hold no diplomas. Special provision would have to be made for including them in all the privileges of the law.

It is very interesting to be in this movement. Many nurses have exaggerated ideas of the power of law. Some fear it will be unduly harsh, and others expect it to accomplish impossibilities of reformation. At any rate, there is no intention of being premature about it, and at present only organization is the theme of advice.

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