

the probationers. Ward orderlies are unknown in English civil hospitals. All the nursing of the male patient is done by the sister and nurse. The probationers receive lectures from the visiting medical staff and classes from the Matron, and pass examinations before receiving their certificate of training.

The whole scheme of hospital administration for county hospitals resolves itself into a body of subscribers, appointing committees for a given period, who, in their turn, control and regulate the hospital in accordance with certain by-laws, and the fundamental rule of most of these hospitals is that they are intended only for fit objects of charity. This rule is carefully guarded by the medical profession amongst whom the very idea of pay wards attached to a general hospital, which seems so usual here, is very generally regarded with great suspicion and disfavour. It must, however, be owned that they would solve a very serious difficulty with regard to the poorer middle classes, who are of all people the worst off in England in illness.

In some towns, especially large manufacturing towns, the work-people contribute largely to the support of the hospital, and have their own representatives on the committee. This is the case, however, in only a few hospitals; it is not in mine.

Further, it is necessary to remember that these hospitals which are solely intended for the relief of the sick poor and working classes and do not even contribute clinical instruction for students, are built and maintained entirely by voluntary contributions of the more well-to-do; and that they are beyond and outside the rate-supplied institutions, such as workhouse infirmaries and asylums for the insane. Above everything else, therefore, these hospitals are pre-eminently intended for the sick poor, for their comfort, their convenience, their medical and surgical treatment, and the first and finest lesson they have to teach to the nurses trained in their walls, is, that nothing, not the nurses' instruction, or convenience or comfort is so important as the welfare of the patients confided to their care.

Passed as "Fit."

"Vanity Fair" is responsible for the following story:—A member of the Imperial Forces tells that when in hospital at Wynberg he lay between two "Tommies" from Vauxhall. When convalescent and able to talk he asked them what was the matter with them. "I dunno," was the reply, "the Pill at 'ome passed us as 'fit,' but we're mortal bad' now." Before he left the hospital the Yeoman read the card over the bed on either side of him. Each bore the simple statement: "Congenital heart disease."

The American Nursing World.

THE SPANISH AMERICAN WAR NURSES.

The Spanish-American War Nurses' Association, at their recent meeting, elected officers for the coming term as follows: President, Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee of Washington, D.C.; vice-presidents, Dr. Laura A. C. Hughes, Boston, Mass.; Miss Jean Walton, New York; Miss Mary E. Dreyer of the First Reserve Hospital, Manila; Miss McEvoy, chief nurse at United States Hospital, Corregidor, P. I.; Dr. Isabel Elliot Cowan, Iowa; Miss Anna Robbins of Santa Mesa, P. I.; Miss Elizabeth Porteous of Galt, Ont., recently returned from service in the Philippine Islands; Miss Mary Misselbach, Newark, N. J.; Miss Yssabella Waters of New York; recording secretary, Miss Lela Wilson, Boston, Mass.; corresponding secretary and treasurer, Mrs. George Lounsbury, Charleston, W. Va.

Five delegates were elected to represent the society at the International Congress of Nurses. They were the two secretaries above named and Dr. Hughes, Miss Walton and Miss Porteous. Dr. McGee was unable to be present throughout the week and, therefore, requested that a delegate be named in her place. There were forty-nine new members admitted into the organization, which now has a membership of 553 trained nurses and physicians who have served not less than one month during the Spanish-American War under contract with the United States Government.

A liberal sum was appropriated for the relief of one of the nurses recently broken in health while in the Army work. The society maintains a sick and benefit fund for this purpose. The association authorized the formation of local camps. Officers of these camps are named after the manner of those of an army; that is, captain, lieutenant, and adjutant. The next meeting of the organization will take place in Washington, D. C., in December, 1902. Members were present from Texas, Michigan, Tennessee, Minnesota, Kentucky, Illinois, District of Columbia, Vermont, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Massachusetts, New York, and the Philippine Islands.

A Plea for Tommie.

The Rev. R. Deane Oliver, senior Church of England chaplain at Bloemfontein, writes: "Please allow me to appeal for Christmas cards for our sick comrades and those who, in camp or blockhouses, have no chance to buy. Cards should be new, and each in its own envelope. If despatched at once men will receive them in time to send them home for Christmas. This will give intense pleasure."

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