

understand that a Sister in the Hospital (Sister Fitzgerald) had made sundry charges against the Matron. Dr. Fowler, resident surgeon, was requested by the Committee to furnish a report relative to the strained relations between the Matron and the nursing staff. This report was received, and without calling for any explanation of, or comment on, its contents from the Matron, her resignation, sent in in ignorance of the fact that she was "recommended for dismissal," was accepted. Thus, on the report of one medical man, on the proposition of a second, Dr. Gaffney, seconded by a third, Dr. Boyd, the resignation of the Matron, which, under the circumstances, was tantamount to dismissal, was accepted without the committee having acquainted her with the charges made against her. Without entering into the rights and wrongs of the case, we must say we consider the precedent an extremely dangerous one. The justice meted out to criminals secures for them a fair statement of their side of the case, and if so responsible an official as the Matron of a public hospital is to be dismissed on the ex-parte statement of a medical officer, without being accorded a hearing, committees of hospitals will not find it easy to obtain suitable candidates for vacant appointments.

### The Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses.

We are requested to correct two inaccuracies which appeared in the list issued last week of the Members of the Society for the State Registration of Nurses—Miss C. A. Padbury gained her three years' certificate of training at the Leicester Infirmary, and not at the North Staffordshire Infirmary, at which institution she holds a position at present, and Miss E. B. Foster was trained at the Wolverhampton Hospital, not at the Northampton Infirmary.

The Hon. Sec. will be obliged if ladies when filling in the Form of Application, will write *very* distinctly to avoid mistakes, and also if they will, under "qualification for membership," give the hospital in which they were trained, as well as the present nursing office which they hold. These little details save writing, and are necessary for the List of Members, which will be carefully and correctly kept from year to year.

The result of the meeting for election of members on Friday 21st inst., will appear next week, as we go to press too early in the week to make it possible to insert the report in this issue. It is satisfactory, however, that many Matrons and nurses are making enquiries as to the work the Society proposes to do, and that upwards of a hundred applications from well trained nurses have been received since the last meeting.

### Army Nursing Notes.

#### WHITEWASHING SISTER FRIVOL.

Exception having been taken by Mr. Septimus Farmer, L.R.C.P., of No. 8, General Hospital, Bloemfontein, to expressions of opinion gathered from personal intercourse with reliable Nursing Sisters returned from South Africa, on the frivolous conduct of some of the nurses sent out from England, we applied to the War Office for an official list of nursing sisters "sent down," and also discharged from the Service, and the faults for which they had been condemned as unsuitable. We regret that the information has been denied to this journal. We have received the following letter:—

War Office, London, S.W.,  
March 12th, 1902.

MADAM,—I am directed by the Commander-in-Chief to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th inst., and to acquaint you in reply that he regrets that he is not in a position to give you the information desired.

I am, Madam, your obedient servant,  
W. TAYLOR, D.G.

To the Editor, "The Nursing Record,"  
20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

On the same date an inspired and inaccurate article appeared in the *Times*, under title of the Army Nursing Reserve, and referring to this article we quote as follows:—"Of those thus selected (that is by the A.N.S.R. Committee) 800 have served in South Africa, and nearly 200 at military stations at home, while a few have been sent to other places abroad. The general standard of efficiency maintained by the Reserve has been, as might be expected from the care taken in selection; and out of the whole number employed only ten nurses have been dismissed or called upon to resign. A few have resigned voluntarily, and there have been 16 deaths, 14 in South Africa and two at other stations."

Again, "We understand that the reports made to these (the military) authorities concerning the Reserve by the principal medical officers in South Africa, have been of an entirely satisfactory character."

Now, as to the care taken in selection of candidates by the Army Nursing Reserve Committee, we give our own experience. Several members of the Registered Nurses' Society, of which we are the Hon. Superintendent, who applied to be sent to the front, were engaged by the Committee without any reference to us of any sort whatever, and upon enquiry we find that dozens of other nurses were engaged without any direct official communication from the Army Reserve Committee to the Matron or Superintendent of Nursing at the head of the institution from which the candidates were chosen, with regard to their nursing qualifications. In the opinion of a Matron of

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)