

which we have so strongly objected, was introduced.

Now the moral of this for trained nurses is perfectly plain. If Nursing is to be a profession progressing on professional lines, nurses must be governed solely by professional people, who are practically acquainted with the conditions of their work, and personally acquainted with the wants and wishes of nurses. And if nurses are to have professional self-government, they must, like every other profession, be prepared to pay the entire expenses themselves. There would not be the slightest difficulty in this. We calculate that there are at least 80,000 nurses in the United Kingdom, and a small payment by each would be amply sufficient. And to gain the immense benefits of registration, we are confident that nurses would be perfectly willing to meet that comparatively small expense.

Annotations.

THE KING'S CONVALESCENCE.

The King's progress continues to be highly satisfactory. Although still an invalid in the opinion of his medical attendants, His Majesty is able to be moved from his couch to a wheeled chair for a few hours daily.

THE QUEEN AND THE IMPERIAL YEOMANRY HOSPITALS.

The Queen has graciously consented to distribute the medals to the members of the staffs of the Imperial Yeomanry hospitals who served during the late war. The ceremony will take place, by kind permission of the Duke of Devonshire, in the gardens of Devonshire House, Piccadilly, on Monday, August 11th.

The Countess Howe, chairman of the Imperial Yeomanry Hospitals Committee, desires it known that any members of the staffs who have not received the official notice should communicate with Mr. Oliver Williams, 116, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W. Cards of admission will be sent to those who are able to attend.

At a recent meeting of the Imperial Yeomanry Hospitals Committee a resolution was passed of sincere thanks to the medical and surgical officers, and to the sisters, quarter-masters, orderlies, and others who served on the staffs of the Yeomanry hospitals. They fully recognise the zeal and devotion to duty exhibited by all ranks, and from every quarter expressions of thanks have reached the members of the Committee from patients who

benefitted by the care and skill received in the Yeomanry hospitals. So many letters of this description were received that the Committee think their staffs would be gratified to know it, and they trust that one and all will severally take to themselves the most heartfelt expressions of gratitude from the Imperial Yeomanry Hospitals Fund Committee, who feel that it was entirely owing to the excellence of the staff that these hospitals attained the high reputation they did.

HIGH MORTALITY IN MILITARY HOSPITALS.

The Army Medical Department Report for 1900, which has been issued as a Blue Book, shows that the average strength of European troops serving at home and abroad (exclusive of South Africa) in 1900 was 226,276 warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men. The total number of admissions to hospital was 187,284, and the total deaths 2,242. The admissions represent a ratio of 827.7 per 1,000 of strength as above; the deaths one of 9.05 per 1,000, on a strength of 247,819, which includes detached men not shown in the returns received. Amongst the troops serving in the United Kingdom the admission and constantly-sick were lower and the mortality rate higher than in 1899. As regards zymotic diseases, only one case of small-pox occurred, but the admission rate for eruptive fevers generally was higher than in the previous year, and also higher than the average rate. Influenza was again very prevalent, causing 4,125 admissions, as compared with 2,680 in 1899 and 1,515 in 1898. There were 171 admissions for and 44 deaths from enteric fever, so that over a quarter of the cases died—or one out of every four patients admitted, an appalling return in these days, when by good nursing the deaths from enteric fever can be reduced to 4 instead of 25 per cent. There was considerable prevalence of, with mortality from, pneumonia, and this has been generally attributed to the condition of the re-enlisted old soldiers forming the Royal Reserve and to the embodied Militia. Numbers of these were previously in bad health, and many of them are stated to have contracted the disease by exposure while under the influence of drink. One hundred and thirty-three cases of sunstroke, heat-stroke, and heat apoplexy are recorded, of which 69 occurred at Aldershot in connection with a field day. Curiously enough of all the foreign stations, the Straits Settlements bore the best character, the health of the troops there having been exceptionally good.

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