

nurse they would select women in the large majority of cases."

The Annual Report of the Surgeon-General of the Army (Brigadier-General Forwood), for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1902, contains the following sentence:—"Of the 119 members of the Army Nurse Corps now in service, 63 are in the Philippines and 66 in the United States. The nurses seem to have made a place for themselves in Army hospitals, and chief surgeons and commanding officers speak in high commendation of their services and conduct. One of the latter writes that 'the nurses are entitled to the greatest praise and consideration.'"

Colonel Charles R. Greenleaf, Assistant Surgeon-General, U.S. Army, Chief Surgeon, Division of the Philippines, in a letter addressed to the Adjutant-General of the Division, May 21, 1900, says: "The female nurses have done excellent service. . . . Their influence on the sick and on the well has been a good one, and they have, as a rule, been discreet in conduct, amenable to discipline, and possessed of professional ability of a high order."

About February 1st, 1902, the Chief Surgeon of the Division of the Philippines summoned all the medical officers in Manila to a conference, and there asked if they could not run their hospitals without the female nurses. This inquiry was *unanimously* answered in the *negative*.

The incidents of the war of the Crimea demonstrated to the Medical Department of the English Army the value of female nurses in army hospitals; and since that time they have formed a part of the military establishment of that country. The *Lancet*, in its issue of April 27th, 1901, says: "Without skilled female nurses, the proper care of the sick cannot be accomplished, and it will probably be necessary, even under ordinary conditions, to increase the existing establishment. It will certainly be so in the event of war on any large scale." Since that writing the entire English Army Nursing Service has been re-organised, and, following the example set by our Army, a Superintendent has been appointed. They have even improved on our methods by having an "Advisory Council," made up of the Superintendents of the leading Training Schools of Great Britain.

It seems to me that the medical officer who, having within the last four years served in the Army or Navy with trained women nurses, remains honestly opposed to their permanent and extensive employment in military hospitals, must be a direct descendant of the old Scotchman who thanked the Lord that he was not open to conviction.

The Kaiser has approved Professor Von Bergmann's scheme for the erection of an Empress Frederick Institute for Post-graduate Courses for Physicians.

Educational Matters.

PREPARATORY TEACHING FOR NURSES IN THE NEW YORK CITY TRAINING-SCHOOL FOR NURSES.*

By Miss MARY GILMOUR,
Superintendent of Nurses.

For about two years past, it has been very apparent that a preliminary course was necessary for the pupils of the New York City Training-School.

This conclusion was arrived at before any communication was held with other schools which had established a preparatory course. In fact, the officers, three in number, were so busy attempting to do all the teaching required, both theoretical and practical, that no time was left to inquire what other schools were doing.

The course was two years, the places of the pupils being filled as vacancies occurred, so that there was little uniformity in the knowledge gained by the pupils during the first year; some entering the school in April were placed at work in the wards, and classes for theoretical instruction were not formed till the following August. Pupils sometimes reached their junior examination and failed after being nine months in the school. As all pupils are sent on their emergency service and act as senior nurses during the second year, one can readily see what it meant to the school to lose a pupil at the end of her year, as well as what it meant to the pupil to lose so much time in gaining a profession.

The practical training of the pupil for the first six months has been very hard. She knows nothing from a nursing point of view. If she enters the school when the classes begin she does better, for the theory and practice go hand in hand, but if not the teaching is very one-sided, and she is an element of danger instead of help in the wards.

After careful consideration, it seemed that if a pupil could be taught the theory required of her when she takes her junior examination, before she took up her work in the wards, it would help matters considerably. She could then take up her practical work more intelligently; or, in other words, if she knew the language of nursing before she came to reside in the nursing world, it would help everyone materially to teach her its habits and customs and protect her new associates from discomfort and possibly injury due to her extreme ignorance, while adapting herself to her changed surroundings.

We made inquiries, and found there was no school or college giving this teaching to prospective

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