

"When the nurses were first assigned to duty on the transports *en route* to the Philippines they were not given in the text of the regulations the place which was accorded to them in fact. In other words, they were assigned to the ship's officers' mess, which is equivalent to a second-class position, though they were actually subsisted at the saloon table and given all the privileges of first-class passengers. It was, however, not a pleasant feeling to anyone connected with the Corps, that they did not have in print on the transports the standing to which they were entitled and which was unquestioningly given them ashore.

"The conservatism of the army makes it even more difficult to change an existing condition than to inaugurate a new step, but the appreciation of the Surgeon-General and his assistants in his office of what the nurses were and for what they stood has at last made itself felt in the shape of a recommendation for the amendment of the transport regulations, which has been approved by the Secretary of War and ordered to be made under his authority by the Adjutant-General of the army.

"Before the amendment in General Order No. 56, A. G. O., April 17th, the paragraph indicating the persons permitted to be assigned to the different messes read: 'Ship's Officers' Mess—All authorised adults and children over twelve years of age travelling as second-class passengers, female contract nurses, &c.' The amended regulation now reads: 'The persons who may be subsisted in the saloon mess shall be . . . U. S. Medical Officers and members of the Army Nurse Corps . . . and all authorised persons travelling as first-class passengers.' Thus, it will be seen, has a complete vindication been made by this recognition of the nurses. There now remain but one or two insignificant details to be changed to complete the entirely satisfactory position of the army nurses. As the Nurse Corps represents graduates from every school it cannot be otherwise than that its achievements and successes should be a subject of congratulation to every trained nurse in the country."

The New Military Nursing Service.

In reply to various correspondents who have criticised the organisation of work in the new Imperial Military Nursing Service, we would say that, while sympathising to some extent with the views they express, we think it better to abstain from comment for the present. It must be remembered that, with the exception of the Matron-in-Chief, no woman on the Nursing Board has had any practical experience of the special difficulties of Army Nursing. The Matrons of Civil Hospitals who have seats on the Board have no previous experience of Military Hospital work, nor have they taken any public part in the movement for Army Nursing Reform, so that time must be allowed for the new scheme to have a fair trial. It will be remembered that when commenting on the Regulations of the new Service we stated that there were several which we thought were likely to be productive of friction, and this opinion we still retain.

Nursing Echoes.

* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



The recent Report of the Council of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute gives some interesting instances of the appreciation of the work of the nurses by the working classes. Thus at Treorchy, in South Wales, the miners decided by a majority of over 100—the decision being taken by ballot—that the men working in the pit should make a deduction from their wages of 1d. a month in support of a nurse. At Cefn, in North Wales, the local Association is supported almost entirely by small contributions, and the last report showed a balance in hand of £66. At the Oakenshaw Pit, co. Durham, the miners contribute £30 towards the expense of the nurse, and the owners of the colliery provide her with a house. At Radcliffe Colliery, Northumberland, with the exception of one subscription of £5 5s., the miners entirely support a nurse. Nothing could prove more conclusively the estimation in which the work of the nurses is held.

The year 1903 opened with over 1,000 nurses on the Queen's Roll, a good record when it is remembered that it is barely twelve years since the first nurse was appointed. Nevertheless, in spite of the increased number of nurses, the Council have been obliged to refuse applications from many places, and others have been kept waiting because there are not enough nurses to meet the demand. It has not even been possible always to supply the nurses required by associations already affiliated, so that fresh responsibilities to new associations could not be assumed.

The Council states that it is very desirable that it should be in a position to attract the most suitable nurses to district work—and to retain them—by attaching advantages to long service under the Queen's uniform. This plainly is a question of funds. We think that the time has come when the salaries of the Queen's nurses should be raised, both because their skilled work merits higher payment and also in order that the Council may secure the best nurses.

We regret to learn that there have been many and some very serious, cases of illness among the

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