is nearly the strength of a full Army Corps. Of these 31,118 patients, 6,172 have died, 15,120 have been invalided home, and 9,726 have convalesced in South Africa. At the above rates the cost of the 31,118 men would be:

(1) $6,172 \times 87$... = £536,964 (2) $9,726 \times 57$... = 554,382

 $(3) 15,120 \times 108 \dots = 1,632,960$

Total ... £2,724,306

"To this has to be added the cost of extra hospital staff, equipment of hospitals, and transport, which would bring the cost to at least £3,500,000, if not £4,000,000. This calculation only refers to enteric fever, and does not include dysentery. The basis is also on the cheapest soldier available. An artilleryman is more costly still, and a yeoman, volunteer, and colonial more costly than a cavalryman."

CONCLUSIONS OF COLONEL NOTTER.

"(1) That in the absence of a fuller knowledge of the nature of dysentery, it is sufficient to regard both this disease and enteric fever as being essentially filth diseases, and both due to bacillary organisms intimately associated with and given off by the excretory products of men and animals. Further, that as far as their general etiology is concerned, both diseases may be considered to have a common origin.

"(2) That the prevalence of enteric fever and dysentery among the troops in South Africa cannot be explained as being due in all cases to any one specific insanitary condition, but that various conditions contributed to the incidence and dissemination of these diseases

in different places.

"(3) That in some places these diseases were carried by the use of foul water (notably water from public supplies) which had been polluted, not only by the excreta of men and animals, but also by the decomposing bodies of animals.

- "(4) That in many places where enteric fever and dysentery were specially prevalent, the condition of the water supplies was insufficient to explain the occurrence of these diseases, but that in those cases it could be accounted for by the influence of close aggregation of men and animals in small encampments, fouling of the soil, the occurrence of personal infection, the effects of the swarms of flies which covered food, the men themselves, their clothing; and haunted the latrines and other places for disposal of refuse.
- "(5) That the influence of impure water, aggregation in crowded camps, fouling of soil,

the prevalence of flies as carriers of specific filth, was accentuated by the preponderance of young men in the ranks and by the exhausting nature of the military work which these young

soldiers had to perform.

"(6) That notwithstanding the greatest care and precautions for the safeguarding of the generally-accepted sources of these diseases, it is practically impossible to completely prevent their occurrence in an army hastily mobilised, operating in a country in which water is scarce, and whose ranks are largely filled with young men at an age notoriously liable to be affected by diseases of this nature.

"(7) That in spite of the many difficulties favouring the incidence of enteric fever and dysentery in an army of young soldiers in the tield, much can be done to lessen both the incidence and mortality from these affections by suitable and adequate sanitary measures."

Colonel Notter, while agreeing with Part I. of the report, dissents from portions of Part II.

Appointments.

MATRONS.

Miss Helena Ada Elliot has been appointed Matron of the Hospital, Weston-super-Mare. She was trained at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, where she subsequently held the position of Ward Sister and Assistant Matron.

Miss Edith Edeson has been appointed Matron of the District Hospital, Kelso. She was trained at the City Hospital, Birmingham, and subsequently at the General Infirmary, Chester, of which she holds the three years' certificate. For the last two and a-half years she has held the position of Ward Sister and Deputy Matron at the City Hospital, East Liverpool.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

Miss Kathleen Bowyer has been appointed Assistant Matron at the Royal Albert Asylum, Lancaster. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Manchester, and has held the positions of Night Sister at the Infirmary, Warrington, Sister at the Fountain Fever Hospital, London, Assistant Matron at the City Hospital, North Liverpool, and Sister at the Royal Infirmary, Preston.

Sister.

Miss Priscilla Louisa Lawrence has been appointed Sister at Chalmers' Hospital, Edinburgh. She was trained at the Royal Hospital, Sheffield, where she has acted as Holiday Sister.

STAFF NURSES.

Miss A. Hartley and Miss L. Brabazon have been appointed Staff Nurses at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast. They were trained at Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, Dublin.

previous page next page