

The Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

The following appointments and changes have been made in the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service:—

MATRONS.

Miss E. A. Wilkinson, posted to Woolwich.

SISTERS.

Miss F. M. Hodgins (prov.), Miss E. H. Hordley (prov.), Miss M. Steenson (prov.). All stationed in South Africa.

STAFF NURSES.

Miss A. L. Walker, stationed in South Africa; Miss M. L. Harris (prov.), stationed at Portsmouth; Miss S. K. Bills (prov.), posted to Netley; Miss A. E. Fitzgerald (prov.), posted to Netley; Miss B. N. Daker (prov.), posted to the Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot.

The undermentioned ladies have been confirmed in their appointments, their period of provisional service having expired:—

SISTERS.

Misses E. C. Cheetham, S. Laming, G. E. Lerner, L. M. Lyall, E. C. Stewart, I. G. Willetts.

STAFF NURSES.

Misses E. M. Bickerdike, M. M. Blakely, M. M. Bond, A. F. Byers, A. Fitzgerald, E. C. Humphreys, M. Kendall, M. Pedler, E. M. Pettie, M. L. Potter, L. A. Rideout, M. M. Tunley, K. Ward, A. A. Wilson.

The following Sisters have embarked in the s.s. *Plassy* for Indian troopship duty:—Misses G. A. Magill and E. C. Stewart.

The Women's Memorial to Queen Victoria.

The Women's Memorial to Queen Victoria, which amounts to the handsome sum of £84,000, is to be used to endow the work of the Queen's Nurses in Great Britain and Ireland. The amount collected by the Central Committee was, in round figures: England, Wales, Colonies, &c., £66,000; Ireland, £6,000; Scotland (Scottish Nurses' Endowment Fund), £12,000, or £84,000 in all, which is now added to the £72,000 of the Women's Jubilee Offering to Queen Victoria, making a total of £156,000.

The King and Queen have both expressed their gratification at the result of the appeal, and have accepted a copy of the report just issued.

The high estimation in which our Queen's Nurses are held by the poor is proved by the statement in the report that the very poorest have been eager to contribute their mite, and, with the exception of about one-eighth of the amount collected in sums of over £5, the bulk of the money was made up of small sums, ranging from one penny upwards.

The Teaching of Hygiene to Nurses in Theory and Practice.*

By Miss ISABEL McISAAC,

Superintendent of the Illinois Training-School for Nurses,
Chicago, Ill.

The evolution of the instruction of nurses presents some curious phases which afford examples of "development along the lines of the least resistance." At first glimpse it would seem that the subject of hygiene should be regarded as of the greatest importance in a nurse's education and surgery of the least; but no one at all conversant with training-schools can deny that the reverse is the rule—to such an extent that some of us are asking one another if we are not making better surgeons' assistants than nurses. That this is true is because we find along surgical lines no obstacles in the way of either theory or practice, but when we confront the subject of hygiene, especially in practice, numberless lions line the path, and we are frightened into confining ourselves to superficial theory, for which we do not find a working basis. When the medical side has as violent a seizure of the development of detail as the surgical has been working out during the past ten years we will find many of our lions gone; but meanwhile there are some things we may do ourselves. Incidentally, I wonder why no one has written a text-book on *medical technique*?

First, how has hygiene been taught in our schools? Usually by half-a-dozen lectures and as many classes on theory, while in practice almost nothing. Indeed, among the more intelligent class of the laity we often find a far better understanding of practical hygiene than among graduated nurses. I do not find so much fault with the amount of our theoretical instruction, because it seems to me a better way not to preach what is not practised. We teach, for instance, that three thousand cubic feet of air-space every hour is necessary for each person in a sick-room, and at the same time most of our wards do not give two-thirds as much. Our operating-rooms are built in such fashion that, to maintain a sufficient degree of heat, ventilation is almost entirely cut off, and when the room is filled with surgeon, assistants, and nurses, how much oxygen is left for the patient? Our homes for nurses nearly all have insufficient air-space in the sleeping-rooms, and most of us must confess to many uncomfortable thoughts when teaching upon the subject.

Again, we teach the necessity for sunlight, yet many of our schools situated in large cities are so shut in that nurses go through their whole course

* Read at the tenth annual meeting of the American Society of Superintendents of Training-Schools for Nurses, Pittsburg, Pa., October 7th, 8th, 9th, 1903.

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