

In order, however, that the new regulation may entail no hardship upon those who are forced to request discharge, a clause has been inserted under which the Surgeon-General may, at his discretion, waive the provisions of this paragraph.

In the form in which, with the approval of the Secretary of War, the Surgeon-General of the United States Army notifies the appointment of a nurse in the Nurse Corps, the words "at least" are inserted before three years. This was done to obviate the necessity of reappointing nurses at the termination of three years for another term of three years. It was felt that, having given meritorious service for that length of time, it was desirable to leave it an open question with them as to how much longer they would serve, not forcing them to accept another appointment for another term of three years. Further, that many might feel disinclined to commit themselves who would, if the question were not brought to a decision, continue to serve indefinitely.

Some changes are also made in the routine procedure of handling surplus nurses.

The chief nurse in an Army Hospital is now required to render efficiency reports of the nurses serving under her monthly instead of quarterly. It was found desirable to keep the Surgeon-General's Office more closely in touch and informed as to the character of the work being done. The handling of efficiency reports is also changed in accordance with the precedent established by the Medical Department in the case of its officers.

Central Midwives' Board.

At a meeting of the Central Midwives' Board, Dr. F. H. Champneys in the chair, held at the Board Room, 6, Suffolk Street, S.W., on December 17th, the following business was transacted:—

1. The report of the Standing Committee as to the principles on which the Board should act in dealing with applications for recognition under Section C of the rules as approved institutions, or as approved teachers, was considered, amended, and adopted.

2. In accordance with the recommendations of the Committee the Board resolved:—

- (1) To accept the signature to Form V. of registered medical practitioners who are
 - (a) past or present holders of appointments to lying-in institutions or maternity charities, or
 - (b) past or present examiners in midwifery to any examining Board for a medical qualification, or
 - (c) lecturers on midwifery to institutions where pupil midwives or students of medicine are instructed.

(2) To consider individually and on their own merits applications from registered medical practitioners not coming within the above categories.

(3) To postpone for the present all applications from teachers in Poor Law institutions, in view of the fact that almost all midwives exercising their calling in such institutions are (at the express instance of the Local Government Board) specifically exempted from the operation of Section E of the rules.

3. The following applications for recognition as approved institutions under Section C of the rules were granted:—

- Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital.
- Liverpool Ladies' Charity and Lying-in Hospital.
- Manchester Southern and Maternity Hospital.
- British Lying-in Hospital.
- Newcastle-on-Tyne Lying-in Hospital.
- General Lying-in Hospital, York Road, Lambeth.
- Glasgow Maternity Hospital.
- Dundee Maternity Hospital.
- District Nursing Association, St. James' Square, Cheltenham.
- Maternity Charity and District Nurses' Home, Plaistow.

4. The Board resolved that a slip be appended to Form III. (Certificate of Attendance on Cases) as follows:—

"Note.—Although a case of labour may be used for the instruction of more than one pupil, the case can only be counted to the credit of the one pupil to whom the actual delivery is entrusted."

5. After consideration of applications for certificates, the names of 270 women were passed under Section 2 of the Act, and ordered for entry on the roll. Of this total, sixty-five claimed as holding the certificate of the Obstetrical Society of London; five that of the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin; one that of the Coombe Lying-in Hospital, Dublin; one that of the Liverpool Lying-in Hospital; eight that of St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester; two that of the Salvation Army Maternity Home; and 188 were admitted as having been in *bond-fide* practice for one year prior to July 31st, 1902.

Legal Matters.

A certificated nurse, named Mary Irwin Shaw, thirty, was charged at Bow Street, on Monday, with three cases of theft, two of which she pleaded guilty, and she was committed for trial.

When out of engagements the accused used to stay at the Nurses' Hostel, Francis Street, Tottenham Court Road. Suspicion having been cast upon her, her boxes were examined. A sable necklet, a number of blouses, a brooch, and other articles belonging to other nurses were found.

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