

of his diet or extras to other patients. After every meal, all utensils which have been used will be washed and put in their proper places, and the diet trays emptied and cleaned.

306. In the event of a patient being seized with sudden illness, or his symptoms becoming alarming, the ward orderly will immediately report the same to the Sister or non-commissioned officer.

307. They will report immediately to the Sister or non-commissioned officer any irregularity which may occur in the wards under their charge, and also all loss or damage to articles of hospital or personal equipment.

308. They will not permit smoking in any of the wards, passages, or rooms without the authority of their officer.

309. In wards not nursed by Sisters, they will perform such minor dressings as the officers may delegate to them, and will administer at the proper intervals the medicines ordered (see paragraph 112, Section I., Corps Manual). They will also take the temperature of the patients, when required to do so by the officer of the ward.

310. They are, when posted in charge of a patient or patients and regularly relieved, "soldiers acting as sentinels," and are liable to punishment under Section 6 of the Army Act for sleeping or being drunk on their post, or leaving it before being relieved.

### Care of the Sick and Wounded.

Colonel Bromley-Davenport, asked by Dr. Macnamara, in the House of Commons, for a statement showing how far the general recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Care of the Sick and Wounded in the War had been carried out, replied as follows:—1. The establishment of officers has been increased by 100. The Royal Army Medical Corps has been increased by 400 men. 2. The supply of surgeons and trained orderlies necessary in the event of a great war is now receiving careful consideration. The equipment provided by the Mowatt Reserves for three Army Corps, one Cavalry division, and line of communication troops will, it is hoped, be quite complete by the middle of 1904. 3. The supply of candidates for the Army Medical Corps is now sufficient, and the quality most satisfactory. A college has been established in London, through which all captains must pass before promotion. Promotion to the higher ranks will be by selection, and all must attain a high standard of qualification. Acceleration in promotion from captain to major can now be obtained by officers who show special merit at examination. Also special professional attainments will be recognised by appointment to special posts carrying extra pay. 4. The formation of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service provides for a great increase in the establishment of women nurses. 5. Sanitary officers have already been and are still being appointed to important commands. 6. A new and improved pattern of ambulance wagon has been adopted. 7. Experiments are now in progress having for their object the provision of a tent of improved pattern and more suitable for sick and wounded.

### The Progress of State Registration.

The first meeting of the Parliamentary Bills Committee was held at 431, Oxford Street, on Friday, the 19th inst., when it was reported that Dr. Farquharson had brought in the Bill on the previous Monday; important business was transacted, and the Committee decided to meet again on Thursday, the 25th inst.

Dr. Farquharson gave formal notice that he would move the second reading of the Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses on Monday, February 22nd. As no place had been secured in the ballot, this, of course, meant that our Bill would have to be taken after Government measures and others which had secured a place—a somewhat forlorn hope; and, as Sir F. Dixon-Hartland, Conservative member for Uxbridge, had given notice that he would move that the Nurses' Bill "be read a second time this day six months"—a playful little formula used in the Mother of Parliaments to block a Bill—it could not be read after twelve o'clock, when unopposed business only can be considered. The second reading of our Bill was thus crowded out by the evening business on Monday—a fate which usually happens to private members' Bills—by the debate on Dr. Macnamara's motion to adjourn the House on the question of Chinese labour for the Transvaal—a matter of burning public interest.

We must hope for better luck next time, and go on working steadily to arouse public interest in the important matter of their protection from the dangerous ministrations of the inefficient and, in many instances, disreputable persons who pose as trained nurses, and of the necessity of a hall mark for thoroughly trained nurses.

At a special meeting of the Irish Nurses' Association, held in Dublin last week, a vote of thanks was passed unanimously to Dr. Farquharson for his kind advocacy of the nurses' cause in introducing a Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses into the House of Commons. A copy of the resolution was forwarded to Dr. Farquharson by Miss Huxley, the President of the Association. We are also pleased to learn that several Matrons have written to Dr. Farquharson expressing their gratitude for his interest on behalf of our Bill.

It is reported that the Hon. Claude Hay will introduce the R.B.N.A. Bill for the Registration of Nurses and Nursing Homes—a little late in the day, but calculated to arouse public interest in the question, and so all to the good.

At an ordinary meeting of the Managers of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, held at the office on

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)