

of the type of Army Nurse, and make demands upon the very best qualities of the very best women. If, then, the rôle of an Army Nurse possesses attractions of its own, its responsibilities are amongst the most onerous which fall to women workers in any capacity.

A recognition of these facts by the War Office represents the latest stage of the development of its Nursing Service. The method of administration of the Service has been worked out in detail, and the principles enunciated must commend themselves to all who appreciate the importance of these matters. We are glad to note in other directions a definite activity in regard to Army Nursing efficiency, of which the foundation of Queen Alexandra's Nursing Service is a part. The graduated scales of pay in each grade, the certainty of promotion if fit, the periods of annual leave, are points of no small importance. Add to which, that the duration of employment may be brief, if so desired. It has been regarded as essential that the closest possible association of the military and civil branches of the nursing profession should be maintained. We are pleased to know that Military Matrons and Sisters, by periodic visits to civil hospitals, are kept in touch with civil advances. The foundation of a Military Nursing Home in London, which has been decided upon, will afford opportunities for mutual acquaintance, and we have no doubt that this association of the two branches will result in mutual profit. The *personnel* of Q.A.I.M.N.S. is to be distributed to all hospitals of 100 beds and over at home and abroad, but arrangements are being made for the provision of temporary assistance in all small garrisons at home when occasion arises. Staffs are being supplied to hospitals at Gibraltar, Malta, Cairo, Alexandria, in Canada, the West Indies, Hong Kong, Ceylon, South Africa, &c., and service in hospitals abroad comes in rotation. The foreign tour is, besides often affording increased emoluments, considered one of the most pleasant conditions of the Service.

The experimental trials of a new system of nursing administration capable of adaptation to the military machine have been in operation at Woolwich and Netley, and are now completed. We are glad to note that the Matrons of Q.A.I.M.N.S., in addition to being charged with the supervision of the Hospitals for Women and Children, are intimately associated with the scheme of training of male nurses in the

Army, set forth in the new Standing Orders of the R.A.M.C. We anticipate important results therefrom, as well as from the differentiation of duties established by the recent subdivision of the Medical Corps. In all these and kindred questions, which space alone prevents us from detailing, we trust our military sisters will play a part worthy of the training-schools which send them forth equipped with the best professional knowledge. Candidates for the new Service will understand that, while the professional standard is required to be the same in the Army as elsewhere, it is in the very nature of things essential that a ready capacity for adapting oneself to a wider field of experience is essential. We commend to the young Army Nurse the careful study of questions to which she will be introduced in her military career. To establish a fitting place for a Nursing Service in a complicated system, such as is our medical and military organisation, a study of the whole is necessary. The young nurse should early comprehend what extended experience will later abundantly demonstrate, that in proportion as she appreciates her relation to the general organisation, so shall she be successful in adding to the efficiency of her Department.

There is, however, another aspect with which we ourselves are intimately concerned. We find ourselves naturally in close sympathy with this branch of women's work, and we cannot but feel that the civil nursing profession will follow the progress of this young Service with anxiety and with earnest hope for its success.

The members are our representatives in the largest Nursing Service under the Crown, and jealous as we are of our good name, the prestige of the military branch of our profession should be to us a cherished possession. There is not a little reason to believe that this fact is not so constantly remembered as it should be.

The recently-issued "Regulations for Admission into Q.A.I.M.N.S." place enormous responsibilities upon Matrons of civil hospitals, which we well know these Matrons will assume.

Queen Alexandra's Nursing Service, as we to-day survey its organisation, its opportunities, and the nobility of its work on behalf of our soldiers, is a source of pride and a credit to the civil nursing profession. We wish most earnestly the fullest success to those who serve

"Sub Cruce Candida."

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