

ject that does not relate to her patient. Morning, noon, and night she must be willing to discuss his temperature, pulse, the amount of sleep he has had, and the quantity of milk he has drunk; or be considered very unsympathetic and not fit to be a nurse. Then, again, she may have a headache or some other pain. Should she mention it? On no account! It is almost immoral of a nurse to have a pain, and if she is asked if she is feeling quite well, she puts on her best smile and says, "Perfectly well, thank you."

Next she goes to a house where she talks babies and housekeeping.

"You go about so much, nurse, you ought to know quite a number of recipes for nice puddings, and I wish you would tell me how other people do up their cold meat; and do you know what I can do to restore the dining-room carpet? It is quite faded."

Or she may be in a house where theatres and new books are for ever discussed, and as most nurses like both she will enjoy herself for a time.

She may be nursing a hopeless case. The doctor says: "There is no hope, nurse; he can't last long, but don't tell his wife for the shock would be too much for her." So day by day she sees him growing worse, and in answer to the anxious enquiries of his adoring wife, she tells—lies, yes, lies. What else can she do? And when he is too ill to hide the pain he feels she tells the dear wife that he is resting, and it would be a pity to disturb him by coming in just now. And yet, when a child, she was taught that all liars will have their part in a lake burning with fire and brimstone. Perhaps she has forgotten that.

I often wonder if a nurse remembers which is her real self, or if she is an actress, and, as Shakespeare says, "plays many parts" in her time.

Perhaps she believes in being all things to all men, so can be in turn a Tory, a Radical, a Church worker, a theatre enthusiast, a mother's help, and a dozen other things if necessary.

She, of all people, must enjoy her holidays, when she can be herself; that is if she can remember which is herself. But even then I have no doubt that she would have to be an actress still, and make believe that a thermometer is a mystery to her, and that she is not even on bowing terms with disease in any shape or form.

M. H.

Miss Emily B. Darnell and Miss Maud S. Williams have been appointed Staff Nurses (provisionally) in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

## Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

POSTINGS AND TRANSFERS AT HOME.—*Sisters*: Miss B. N. Daker, on return from Indian troopship duty (s.s. *Plassy*), to Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Millbank, S.W., and Miss M. Worthington, on return from Egypt, to Colchester.

POSTINGS AND TRANSFERS ABROAD.—Miss M. Kendall, to Wynberg, Cape Colony, and Miss K. Pearse, to Standerton, Transvaal, on arrival from England.

*Sisters*: Miss S. K. Bills, from Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Millbank, S.W., and Miss S. Smyth, from Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot, to s.s. *Plassy*.

*Staff Nurse*: Miss E. M. Fairchild, from Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, for Indian troopship service.

### NEW TERMS OF SERVICE.

From a notice which has appeared in our advertisement columns the attention of nurses will have been called to the new terms of service in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. The salary of the Matron-in-Chief, which under the old regulations was £250 per annum, rising to £300, now begins at £300 and rises to £350. Principal Matrons who began at £150, rising to £180, now begin at £175, rising to £205. Matrons who began at £70, rising to £120, now begin at £75, and rise to £150. Sisters who began at £37 10s., rising to £50, now begin at £50, rising to £65, and Staff Nurses, who began at £30, rising to £35, now begin at £40, rising to £45. When the scheme for the Service, which contained so many excellent recommendations was promulgated, the chief point which we criticised was the inadequacy of the salaries offered, more especially in connection with those of the Matron-in-Chief, the Sisters, and Staff Nurses.

The Service now, in addition to an appeal to patriotism, offers opportunity for honourable work, adequately remunerated, for it must be remembered that in addition to the salary offered there is a pension on retirement. We would advise nurses who have completed their training, before taking up other branches of work, to consider whether this Imperial Service has not claims upon them. Our views as to war are sufficiently well known, but, so long as war exists, it is unquestionable that the brave defenders of our country should, when sick or wounded, receive the very best nursing care.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)