

February Army List announces the abolition of this Council and the establishment of an organisation to be known as the British Red Cross Society, with the King as patron, the Queen as President, Lord Rothschild as Chairman of the Council, and Sir Frederick Treves as Chairman of the Executive Council. The offices of the Society are at 9, Victoria Street, S.W. The inadequacy of the organisation of our National Aid Society was never more evident than at the time of the Græco-Turkish war. Money was raised and help rendered by voluntary organisations, and the Society sent out £1,000 to Greece only when the need for assistance was practically over. We regret to notice that the names of no women are mentioned as members of the Executive Council. If its work is to be a success it is important to secure their interest and co-operation.

Special demonstrations on medical and surgical nursing for the students at the London Hospital have now been arranged, and will be given by the Ward Sisters every three months on the last Wednesday and Friday of each term of clerking and dressing. Instruction will be given as to the changing of draw sheets, the lifting of helpless patients, the undressing of accident cases, the prevention of bedsores, the preparation and administration of enemata, the care of patients' mouths, how to keep children clean when confined to bed, and their heads free from pediculi, the application of poultices and fomentations, and the feeding of patients after operation. We are glad that the importance of such knowledge to medical students is now recognised at the London Hospital; we believe that at King's College Hospital such instruction is also given. We have frequently pointed out that owing to the development of medical and nursing education, the former increasingly on scientific lines, while many practical details formerly undertaken by students are now as a matter of course performed by nurses, the qualified practitioner finds himself ignorant of many details, a knowledge of which would be most useful to him in private practice.

The *St. George's Hospital Gazette* draws attention to the students "relative ignorance of many of the details of modern nursing, a working knowledge of which would be in any circumstances very useful, and in some contingencies absolutely essential." They, too, would like some practical nursing demonstrations.

It is reported that a lady is coming from the Celestial Empire to train as a nurse at Guy's Hospital. In most of our large training schools

are now to be found women from other European countries, especially from Sweden. Holland now has good schools of her own, so that the Dutch do not come to England to learn nursing as they did in the eighties. America set the ball rolling in Japan with most marvellous results. One thing is certain. Nothing will prevent the barbarous Chinese custom of "binding" so certainly as hospital training—well developed feet are just absolutely indispensable in ward work. "What sort of a head has she got?" a Matron once asked a busy hospital Sister, referring to a probationer on trial. "Head? Oh! I never trouble about their heads, her feet are all right, she's a nipper." This was in the days when fourteen hours' duty had a disastrous effect on the tarsal arch.

Prince Francis of Teck is reported to have said, when presiding at the annual meeting of the Middlesex Hospital, that "it always seemed to him an extraordinary thing that so many people who had houses in town as well as in the country should be so generous in the support of the local hospital, and even of the village nurse, and yet altogether neglect and ignore the claims of the great hospitals of the Metropolis in which they spent so large a proportion of the year." Generosity is hardly the word to use in relation to village nurses, whose salaries, when board and lodging are taken into account, are usually about one-half of that paid to a scullery maid. These village nurses are notoriously badly paid, and one wonders how they exist at all.

Of the making of nurses with but little training, and, in consequence, with but limited knowledge and skill, there is no end, and we think it is time the Liberal Party in Parliament should consider the question of the nursing of the sick poor in rural districts upon its merits. We ask them a simple question. Why should the poor when ill be provided with so-called nurses who would not for a moment be admitted as capable of attending to the richer classes suffering from *exactly the same disease*?

Through the ministrations of the Queen's Jubilee Institute the benefits of thoroughly trained, highly skilled nurses can be provided for every district in the land. Then why are the poor to have thrust upon them, in their dependence, women who must be exceedingly ignorant of the work they profess to perform. There is no excuse for this growing evil and it arises usually from terrible incompetence upon the part of philanthropic persons who "boss" rural district nursing and who do not know

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