

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

No. 936.

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1906.

Vol. XXXVI.

Editorial.

AN EXAMINATION FOR MATRONS.

To a Government Department in this country belongs the honour of having instituted a test of candidates for the position of Matron, and of requiring all those who desire to be eligible for this important position to prove themselves capable of satisfactorily passing this test. Army Orders for February announce that henceforth Sisters of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service will not be promoted to the rank of Matron, until they have passed an examination in conformity with regulations which we publish in another column.

We congratulate the Secretary of State for War most heartily on this most important announcement, which may certainly be regarded as a direct result of the re-organisation of the Military Nursing Service in 1901, when for the first time a Matron-in-Chief was appointed and a Nursing Board was formed upon which Matrons of training schools were accorded seats.

It is well recognised in the nursing world that evidence of special qualifications, beyond holding a three years' certificate of training, is requisite in those seeking the positions of administrators, and of teachers and trainers of others, and the examination now announced cannot fail to increase the efficiency of the Military Nursing Service. Its establishment, as well as the granting of increased pay to all members of the Service, are two important pieces of work to have been accomplished during the tenure of office of the first Matron-in-Chief. Briefly the conditions constituting eligibility for this examination are:—

The completion of five years' service in the rank of Sister in Q.A.I.M.N.S.

The submission of a certificate that, during the twelve months previous to the

date on which the examination is held, the candidate has undergone special instruction by a Matron in the Matron's duties for a period of two months, or has discharged Matron's duties for the same period. This certificate is to be signed by the Matron of the hospital in which the Sister is serving.

To enable candidates to procure the necessary certificate of administrative capacity, Sisters of four years' service and over may at their own request undergo a two months' course of special instruction in Matron's duties.

The Board of Examiners will consist of a Principal Matron as President, and two Military Matrons as members. For stations abroad a Board will be appointed to conduct the oral examination under arrangements made by the Director-General. The written examination will be supervised by a Local Board consisting of a Matron as President and two Sisters as members.

The responsibility of guaranteeing the efficiency of the candidates is thus placed in the hands of those who instruct them, *i.e.*, the Matrons.

It will be seen from the Regulations that the examination is to be both written and oral and that the candidate will also be required to deliver, before the examiners, a lecture adapted to the training of orderlies of the Royal Army Medical Corps. The lines upon which the examination is arranged will commend themselves to all who are interested in the good organisation of nursing. The sooner a similar system is established in connection with candidates for Matronships in civil hospitals, so that Hospital Committees may be able to distinguish between those who have had training and have given evidence of capacity in performing the duties of a Matron, and those who have not, the better it will be for the efficiency of the training given to probationers.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)