

districts have fully appreciated the amount of work done or given that practical assistance upon which institutions of this kind depend; for it does not seem to be generally known that the Cardiff Institute possesses no endowment, save a bequest which brings in about £50 a year. The cost of the work last year amounted to about £1,200, and out of this a little over £700 came in the form of donations and subscriptions, and help is now urgently needed for the purpose of strengthening the finances and to clear the buildings from debt; for last year a maternity department was established, with a present staff consisting of a superintendent, a staff midwife, four pupils, and two maids.

The work is carried on by a perfectly organised system under the able personal superintendence of Miss L. M. Morgan, and she has made known how extensive it is. During the past six months, 1,147 patients have been nursed, the nurses having paid 34,451 visits. No wonder the nurses are popular, and the patients grateful; a gratitude they show in a practical way by subscribing such sums as they are able towards the good work.

The irrelevant controversy proceeding in the *Broad Arrow* in reference to Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, is again exposed in the *British Medical Journal*. In a leading article, the former journal brings forward the Toyama Branch Hospital in Tokio as an argument in support of its contention that the nursing section of the R.A.M.C. should be increased, on the assumption that as the Toyama Hospital employed 600 male nurses, such a hospital would absorb three-fourths of our available staff of male nurses. This estimate is incorrect, says the *British Medical Journal*, and continues:—

Six hundred is three-fourths of our peace strength, which does not "form our whole available staff," as the war strength is augmented by the reserves. But this by the way. We should not require more than 250 male nurses, and we might even do without any at all, in hospitals with 3,000 patients, the deficit being made up by female nurses. The fact is that the military hospitals of the Japanese army have no soldier nursing-orderlies. "Such duties are performed by a class of men who are not of sufficient height, age, or physique for military service, but who are trained as sick nurses. They are not enlisted soldiers, but are simply civil employees of the army." In time of war these men go to the front for duty on the lines of communication. Their places in the hospitals in Japan are taken by the nursing sections of the Red Cross Society. In these Red Cross nursing sections the males look after the light cases and the females the more serious cases. The male nurses of the Toyama Hospital were not

soldiers, and therefore cannot be compared with the R.A.M.C. The only soldier orderlies of the Japanese Army are men in the combatant ranks and reservists who have received a certain amount of hospital training; in war they are employed principally in the "first line." "None of these men do duty as nursing orderlies or hospital attendants in the military hospitals." In this respect our present system provides better trained nurses in the field than does the Japanese. Therefore the British and Japanese nursing systems bear no comparison, though the Japanese rely upon women to nurse severe cases in their base hospitals and hospital ships. Their institutions along lines of communication are not hospitals properly so-called. Consequently they make every effort to get their sick back to the hospitals at the base; in other words, the home territory. So far as the results of treatment in the respective hospitals go, this country has nothing to learn from Japan.

Why must a male military nurse be a fighting man; surely his work is to heal, not to inflict wounds? The medical officers and nursing sisters are non-combatants—why should not the orderly also be a man of peace—we see no reason against it?

This month the *American Journal of Nursing* brings out a Training School Convention Number, largely devoted to a report of the annual meeting of the Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses; it is just cram full of good things.

League News.

On Friday, July 6th, the annual re-union of the Parish of Nottingham Infirmary Nurses' League took place on the lawn at the back of the Nurses' Home.

There was a large number of old nurses and friends present, including the Infirmary medical staff and some of the medical and nursing staffs from the local hospitals.

The old Bagthorpe nurses came from London, Leeds, Leicester, Birmingham, and other places, all happy at the prospect of renewing old friendships. The day was beautifully fine. Tea was served on the lawn, during which time the nurses' string band played a selection of excellent music. After tea, croquet and tennis were freely indulged in by some, while others contented themselves with pleasant talks with old friends. During the evening, there was a bicycle procession. All the bicycles were beautifully decorated, and some of the characters represented by the competitors were exceedingly well got up. A dance followed in the evening, and brought to a close one of the happiest reunions ever spent by the Bagthorpe Infirmary nurses.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)