

the Royal Army Medical Corps of an efficient Army Nursing Service is beneath contempt, but we have only to read the letters of the late Lady Superintendent of the Indian Army Nursing Service, Miss Catherine Loch, to realise what a strong factor it has always been in the prevention of nursing progress in the Army.

Meanwhile from numerous sources we gather how much appreciated is the work and devotion of the Queen's Army Nurses. The departure of Miss J. G. Powell, Matron of the Royal Arsenal Hospital, Woolwich, for South Africa, is being deeply regretted by all and sundry, and she will carry with her the best wishes for her welfare from a large number of patients her sympathetic care has relieved in sickness, and helped to restore to health.

It is interesting to recall that the introduction of a female nursing staff, which had long been agitated for at the Royal Arsenal Hospital, was precipitated by the gun cotton accident of March, 1903, when Captain Partridge lost his life and several men were more or less seriously injured. Two of the latter lay for many weeks dangerously ill, requiring the constant attendance of trained nurses from Guy's Hospital. Since the nurses have been in the hospital there have been several severe cases, but none fortunately involving a number of casualties—except the occasion of the recent fire, when five injured firemen were detained. A very remarkable instance of the prolongation of human life by skilled nursing was recently brought to light in the coroners' court, where in the evidence of Major E. M. Pilcher, D.S.O., it was proved that a patient had lingered over nine months in this hospital with a broken neck.

Amongst several others, Miss J. P. Jamieson has resigned her membership of the R.B.N.A. on account of her disapproval of the recent conduct of affairs by the officials, particularly of the special general meeting of the 7th of February, and of the way in which the protest relating to the conduct of that meeting (of which she was one of the signatories) was treated.

We are glad to hear on good authority that the ten per cent. Nursing Home Syndicate, which contemplated absorbing all the little West End home hospitals around Harley Street, is not likely to succeed. Nursing is already quite sufficiently exploited by unprofessional persons.

Mr. W. Crooks, in his evidence at the Poplar enquiry gave a graphic account of the deplorable condition of affairs in that institution only ten years ago. One item throws a flood of light on the state of the nursing of the sick :—

“As to the charges of lack of discipline, it was true enough in the old days. A female inmate came to me one morning and said she had been sitting up all night with a dying pauper. She had gone to the nurses' room, but found the night nurse and the day nurse and the labour master making merry with the aid of a bottle of brandy. They refused to see the dying man.”

The Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, who is President of the Bangor (co. Down) District Nursing Society, was present at its annual meeting, and in the course of her presidential address said she was pleased to be able to report that the nursing of the sick poor had been well done by Miss Borlase, but so much was required that a second nurse ought to be employed. There was, said Lady Dufferin, a great need for a fully-trained maternity nurse in the district, and the society would be willing to take up the matter when the members received sufficient support to make the undertaking possible.

Dr. Franklin W. Barrows, writing on the Undertrained Nurse in *The Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette*, points out incidentally that it was “because the doctor could not tolerate the many limitations of the untrained nurse that he bade her learn this thing and that, a course which has led to the reckless extravagance now in evidence in her intellectual outfit.”

We doubt it. The truth in this connection is that women to whom the medical faculty relegate such vast human responsibility, will no longer remain dull, dumb drudges. Prompted by conscience, they ask and will continue to demand the right to qualify themselves for such responsibility. This by the way.

Dr. Barrows continues: “One thing is certain, the doctor will not deliberately encourage the undertrained nurse any more than he will encourage the undertrained physician. Sooner or later, also, the public will find her out, as they are to-day finding out the quack and the pretender, and she will have to take rank where she belongs. State Registration, when equitably administered, will draw the line and afford legal protection from the incompetent nurse as well as the short cut doctor or plumber.”

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