

out with justice by our able contemporary, *The Times of India*, that this system is unfair, and indeed unjust, because it does not attract to the service the best class of Nurses, while it affords little opportunity for providence to those who are appointed. It is suggested by our contemporary that the pay of the Nursing Sisters "should begin at £10 a month, and after each five years of service should increase by £2 10s. per month. They should be allowed one year's furlough to England after each five years' continuous service, and in other respects their periods of leave should conform to those applicable to all officers of the service. At the end of twenty years' service, they should be entitled to a pension of from £100 to £120 per annum, and they should not be allowed to remain on the active list after fifty years of age. This latter point—the granting of a moderate pension—is of supreme importance, for, with their present pay, it is impossible for them to lay by sufficient to provide for their necessities in old age, and many of them who are now serving will have to leave the service as poor as when they entered it, with the additional drawback that their capabilities of earning a livelihood will be much diminished."

With these common sense and just views we are in complete accord, and we believe that it would add, not only to the efficiency, but even to the real economy of the system, if this fair and equitable arrangement were carried out.

There is, however, another matter to which considerable attention is being directed in India—the exact position of the Nursing staff, and especially the relationship in which they stand to the senior medical officer of the military hospital in which they work. It appears that in more than one instance a Nursing Sister has made a complaint to headquarters, overlooking or ignoring the medical officer in charge. At present, the Nursing Sisters are supervised by a Lady Superintendent, who travels from centre to centre inspecting the Nursing department of the various military hospitals, and who apparently is, at least in theory, held responsible for the working of these departments. Now, in principle, Miss Nightingale's dictum—that the head of a female staff must be a woman—is beyond dispute or question, and is absolutely necessary to the maintenance of good order and discipline. It works admirably in Institutions in this country, and it is difficult to realise

that the conditions of Nursing, even in military hospitals, can be so widely different from those which hold in civil Institutions, that the same principle is not equally valid in all.

On this matter, we should be glad to know the opinions of our readers who have served in the Army Nursing Service, whether at home or abroad. And we can say this much, confidently—that the scandals which have occurred in certain instances, when a female staff have been placed under the uncontrolled headship of a man, have been too grave to encourage the belief that under any circumstances a plan, which has in most well-regulated Institutions been abolished, can possibly be regarded as suitable or desirable in the Army Nursing Service.

There are two things which seem to us to be urgently required—first, that the number of Lady Superintendents and Nursing Sisters, both in the Indian and the English armies, should be greatly increased; and secondly, that the training of orderlies in the work of Nursing should be placed upon a definite and strictly professional footing, and should be so carried out as to render these men really efficient workers, and thus to make them valuable both to their comrades and to the public.

Lectures on Elementary Physiology, in relation to Medical Nursing.

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LECTURE V.—THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

(Continued from page 87.)

THE use of the Catheter is frequently required in patients suffering from diseases of the brain or the spinal cord, in consequence of the loss of muscular power, consequent upon the loss of nerve activity; or, even when this is partially retained, in consequence of the inability of the bladder to completely contract and empty itself. In the latter case, which is perhaps the more frequent, the organ, not completely closing, permits a small quantity of urine to remain in the pouch at the base of the bladder. This, in consequence of its retention, may undergo a process of decomposition, and thus may set

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