

The Army Nursing Reserve.

THE Secretary of State for War has approved of a new Military nursing order, consisting of a reserve of nurses, to supplement the regular nursing service of the Army in time of war. In the regulations for the control of the order, which will be circulated in a few days, it is stated that the body will be known as the "Army Nursing Reserve." In time of peace it will be placed under the direction of a specially-constituted Committee, of which Princess Christian is to be President. In time of war the nurses, or as many of them as may be required, will be entirely under the control of the War Department. The newly-authorized body will consist of 100 or more nursing sisters, a certain number of whom may be detailed by the Military Authorities as acting superintendents.

A candidate for the appointment of nursing sister must be not under 25 or over 35 years of age, and must have had at least three years' preliminary service combined in a civil general hospital. She will be required to produce—

- (a) An extract from the register of her birth, or a declaration made before a magistrate by one of her parents or guardians giving the date of her birth.
 - (b) A recommendation from a person of social position (not a member of her own family) to the effect that the candidate's family is one of respectability and good standing in society, and that she is in every way a desirable person to enter a service composed of ladies.
 - (c) A statement, signed by the candidate, showing whether she is single, married, or a widow, and whether she is a member of a sisterhood or society. The statement should also give particulars of the place and duration of her hospital training, which must, for at least twelve months of the time, have been in a civil general hospital where adult male patients receive medical and surgical treatment, and in which a staff of nursing sisters, under a matron, is maintained.
 - (d) Certificates of efficiency in medical and surgical nursing from the medical officers under whom she has served.
 - (e) A recommendation from the matron of the civil hospital at which she was trained, who must certify that she possesses the tact, temper, and ability qualifying her for appointment to the Nursing Service Reserve of the Army. Ability to speak one or more foreign languages will be considered an additional qualification, and will give preference in selection.
 - (f) A certificate from a qualified medical practitioner that she is in good health.
- Candidates must state, in addition—
- (a) What experience they have had in hospital supervision.
 - (b) What they personally understand by the duties of a superintendent, and the execution of medical orders.

When not required for service members of the Reserve will not be bound by any rules as regards dress or uniform, except that they must wear on the right breast the badge of the Army Nursing Service Reserve. When called up for Army nursing service members of the Reserve will become amenable to the ordinary regulations of the Army Nursing Service. On attaining the age of 50 nursing sisters will cease to belong to the Reserve.

When called up for duty a nursing sister will receive pay at the rate of £40 per annum, and when performing the duties of acting superintendent she will receive extra pay at the rate of £20 per annum. On cessation of employment, nursing sisters—including acting superintendents—will receive a gratuity of £20. They will also receive a further gratuity of £10 for each year of service beyond the first, if at home, and of £20 if abroad. Fractions of a year will be calculated at the same rate. These gratuities are sanctioned subject to the following conditions:—

- (a) The service rendered by a nursing sister must have been in all respects of a satisfactory nature and certified to by a responsible officer.
- (b) The cessation of employment must have been due to causes beyond the nursing sister's own control.
- (c) Any nursing sister relinquishing her engagement for reasons within her own control will forfeit her title to a gratuity—even though her services may exceed a year.

A special allowance in lieu of board and washing at the rate of 13s. a week at a home station, or of 3s. a day at a station abroad when rations in kind are not supplied, and of 3s. 6d. a week when they are supplied, will be granted to sisters of the Reserve when called up for duty. The other allowances at stations abroad, including the allowance for servants, will be at such rates, not exceeding those of a departmental officer of subaltern rank, as the Secretary of State for War may determine.

Nursing sisters when on service will receive a special allowance for the provision of clothing at the following rates:—Annual clothing allowance abroad, £4 7s.; annual clothing allowance at home, £4; triennial winter cloak allowance, £2; triennial summer cloak allowance, £1 5s.

Appointment.

MISS AGNES J. WATT has been appointed matron to the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, for which appointment there was a very keen competition. Miss Watt was trained at the London Hospital, at which institution she now holds the position of sister. We congratulate this lady upon her appointment; at the same time it is an open secret that many reforms are needed in the nursing arrangements of the Radcliffe Infirmary, if these are to be conducted with the efficiency and discipline which are essential to good organisation. We hope, therefore, that Miss Watt enters upon her new work with the courage and strength of purpose, which are invariably needed to effect reforms.

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