

assistance took the form of a subscription which developed into the Nightingale Fund, and which being associated with St. Thomas's Hospital brought about the foundation of the School of Nursing inaugurated in that Institution. From 1856 the progress of military nursing has been slowly progressing, and it is now requisite that the nursing sisters who are appointed to take the oversight of the work in Army hospitals shall have

been trained for at least three years in civil hospitals. In 1888, the system was extended to the Indian Army, and has therein been brought to a marked degree of efficiency. Unfortunately, however, the organisation has of late years made but little progress, and there are at present very grave defects in the nursing arrangements of military and naval hospitals, which should be remedied if the brave defenders of these realms are to obtain in State hospitals the same care and attention

which would be accorded to them if they were inmates of a well-organised civil hospital. For instance, the number of nursing sisters is undoubtedly very small, and in case of war immediate and large reinforcements of that number would be needed. This year, a scheme which Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has advocated for some eight years past has been carried into effect, and, under Government authority, an Army

Nursing Reserve has been formed, so that if the need unhappily arose, 100 well-trained workers would be immediately ready for service.

Once more, venturing to forecast the future, it is hoped that the War Office will cause the military hospitals to be organised more on the lines which have proved so successful in the great general hospitals of the kingdom. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has suggested that a system of special

orderlies should be commenced, where by suitable men should be trained for the sole duties of attendance upon their sick and wounded comrades, and in sufficient numbers, and with sufficient technical training, to render the work thoroughly efficient. The present system, whereby it is possible that a soldier may be drafted as an orderly into the wards of the hospital, who has an hour before been on parade, or working in the garden, and who an hour afterwards may



MISS FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, (IN 1854).

be summoned from the ward to carry coal round the barracks, only requires to be examined, to prove it to be detrimental to the sick and wounded. It may be confidently said that the present system cannot possibly be efficient, and cannot possibly be successful. We earnestly hope that in the near future the improvements which are so urgently needed may be carried out in the Naval and Military nursing services.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)