

further advantage to which it will not be out of place to refer. There is, at present, a great dearth of thoroughly trained male attendants. It appears to me that the Army Hospitals would be doing a work of almost national importance in training male nurses. The men would recoup themselves amply afterwards by the fees, amounting to three guineas a week—which they would obtain as private nurses; and if they were, say after three years' service, formed into a reserve, liable to be called up for service with the colours in case of war, the country would possess an invaluable reserve, in which it is, at present, totally wanting.'

The only civil Hospital which now provides training for male nurses is the National Hospital, Queen's Square, London. Miss Tweed has kindly given me the following interesting information: 'We train male nurses here for a period of two years. They learn Massage, Electricity, and Physiology, on which subjects they have to pass examinations before obtaining a certificate. I think they are very much in request for private work. All our men get good engagements directly they leave us, and I have applications for male nurses frequently. The class of men we have now have proved very satisfactory. They will never take the place of a female nurse, but for some cases I consider they are most important.'

In many large Continental Hospitals men are employed for the male wards. . . . In those hospitals which are in charge of a sisterhood, such as the large Hospital of San Spirito, in Rome, the Sister goes round with the doctors, and is responsible for the good conduct and order of the male ward, but does not undertake any actual nursing duties. These are discharged by male nurses. During a recent visit to this Hospital we were told that three nurses were on duty until noon, after that only one remained. There were sixty cases in the ward, and this seemed to us a lamentably deficient supply for so many patients, some acutely ill.

In the Hospitals and Asylums in Paris to-day, under control of the Assistance Publique, out of 5,000 nurses more than 2,000 are men. These are largely drawn from the working classes. There is apparently no system of theoretical and practical training, with examinations to test their qualifications, and award certificates, and, as a body, they offer a poor contrast to the well educated and superior nurse whom we are happily accustomed to find in our hospitals. It is not until we cross the Atlantic that we discover how talents have been cultivated and powers developed in this interesting branch of nursing. Let us glance at the work done at the City Hospital Training School, New York. After a Civil Service examination the male nurses spend three months under a male Head Nurse in a Medical Ward. They pass

on to special wards, and at the end of of the year have to pass another examination when they receive diplomas as graduate Male Nurses. A small increasing salary is given. After two years' training, the Nurse is expected to nurse mental case for at least six months before he can go out as a Mental Nurse. After leaving the school and doing about five years satisfactory private work, a nurse may become a member of the Bureau for Nurses, of the New York Academy of Medicine, after passing an examination before the Medical Board.

We have all lately read the deeply interesting account of the ceremonies attending the presentation of diplomas to twenty-nine male nurses at the Bellevue Hospital Training School for Male Nurses in New York, nine of whom have volunteered their services as nurses in the United States Hospital Ship "Solace." The Training School was opened as lately as 1888, and since then 132 male nurses have graduated. It now nurses the entire male department of the Hospital, and the work and conduct of the men seems to call for nothing but praise. Their devotion to their duties and to their patients have been appreciated by all who saw it, or benefitted by it.

Already signs are not wanting that the male nurse will soon be found among the ranks of the British nursing profession, and it seems of great importance that the new force shall be cultivated to its highest efficiency, and be directed in well-organised channels, to the benefit of the sick and suffering who seek its aid."

Supplementing Miss Maud Smith's paper, extracts were read bearing on the training of orderlies in Military Hospitals from the Notes of a late Army Nursing Sister of ten years' experience, in which she proves that many reforms are necessary in the Military Nursing system, before efficient male nurses can be trained. This Sister writes:—"The Sister is ordinarily not expected to apply dressings herself, but to see the orderly in charge of the patients apply them. She herself takes the temperature, pulse, and other observations for the Medical Officer, whose duty it is according to Regulations, and also administers medicines, stimulants, and comforts. In the very rare and brief instances when one has an able and willing Private (Medical Staff Corps) to work with, this answers fairly well. For, although it would be quite enough work for the orderly to do the fetching and dealing out of food, linen and equipment, besides cleaning the ward, and attending promiscuous and frequent parades, drills, kit inspections, and personal orders from his superiors, he is generally so fully assisted or supplemented by the sick and convalescent soldiers, that he would have time for dressing wounds and nursing bad cases, were he willing

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