

whose life may, and very probably will, depend upon his carefulness, his gentleness, or his experienced obedience to medical instructions. As if this were not enough, the orderly nurse may be ordered out of the ward by the Non-Commissioned Officer on duty, to go on drill, or on parade, or to do coaling, or some other fatigue duty, and it is no uncommon occurrence, I am told, for the Nursing Sister to come on duty in the morning, and find her patients in bed, perhaps, but her nurses out on the parade ground. These facts I have verified by careful inquiry, for I frankly confess that when I was first informed of them I regarded them as incredible. . . I desire, as I said at first, to avoid the slightest appearance of sensationalism or exaggeration. I have been told of glaring instances in which our soldiers have suffered from the lack of proper care and attention in illness, both in transport and in our military hospitals, but I content myself with drawing attention only to the obvious results which must follow from such a system as that which I have shown to be in force. In the Lock Wards, into which the Nursing Sisters do not go, there is no trained supervision at all, and it is easy to understand that, in consequence, the wards are noisy, untidy, and the patients unruly, that they are not properly washed or attended to, and that they are, therefore, obliged to stay in Hospital much longer than would be necessary if they had skilled care. The Nursing Sisters, in fact, are expected to make bricks without straw. They are given assistants who are not specially selected for their work; who are, as a rule, indifferent to the manner in which that work is carried out, and who naturally can take neither pride nor interest in it, knowing that they may be in the wards to-day, and drafted off to work in the various departments of the hospital to-morrow. It is impossible for one woman to do justice to a hundred sick persons, or to even attempt to give them the attention they need, and, I would add, the care that they deserve. The whole system requires to be re-organised and reformed, and I would suggest that the best educated and most carefully-selected recruits of the Army Medical Service Corps should be placed aside and detailed for the work of nursing alone; that they should be systematically trained in the duties which they have to perform, that they should be kept to nursing work and to nothing else, and that for three years at least they should be retained in the service of one hospital unless, indeed, war broke out and they were required elsewhere. The Medical Staff, I feel confident, would gladly welcome such an arrangement; the Nursing Sisters, I am equally sure, would not only welcome such a reform, but would gladly do all in their power to improve the efficiency of their assistants by instructing them in the best methods of attend-

ance upon the sick, and the authority of a Non-Commissioned Officer between the Nursing Sister and her male pupil should be eliminated from our military nursing system. By this means, in the short space of three years, a reliable staff of thoroughly trained orderlies could be formed who would be able in their turn to take superior posts in the Service, and not only to train the orderlies of the future, but also to take charge of the Lock Wards, and to act as Night Superintendents. There is a 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 exams 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, and women for the female wards; but we can safely flatter ourselves that we have little to learn from these institutions. 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

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