

"Our wars have been few and far between, and when they have come the military system has grown up almost spontaneously to meet the usual demands.

"However true this may have been in the past, it is not going to be true of the future. War with Spain has changed the American point of view with regard to a military establishment.

"It is probable that it will now include an army of at least a hundred thousand men, scattered among our possessions in the Atlantic and the Pacific. These troops may not have very much fighting to do; but even though there should be no actual hostilities, there is bound to be a great amount of sickness in an army of this size, particularly in the garrisons in tropical countries; men will be coming home all the time on sick leave or as convalescents; and they should be carefully treated and nursed in military hospitals maintained at the government's expense.

"It would be of great benefit if we could have women specially trained for this work, and it would be entirely feasible for the government to establish a school at one of the military hospitals, where women could constantly be in preparation for their work of mercy."

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ALTHOUGH Surgeon-General Sternberg has not given this subject any consideration, Colonel Charles H. Alden is much interested in the subject. He says:—

"I have visited Netley and studied the system in vogue there. I am much impressed with it. With some modifications, which are necessary in order to accommodate the system of our institutions and way of doing things, I think we might probably engraft much of the Netley plan upon our own.

"Of course, we can do nothing at present. We must first educate the public, through the Press, relative to the advantages of the system. This, I am happy to learn, is about to be done. When Congress is made fully aware of the advantages to be gained by the introduction of the Netley system into this country, I think it will not long delay in passing the necessary appropriation to carry the work forward."

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THE Medical Department of the United States Army are trying to recover a little of their lost prestige, and a large hospital is being built and equipped on the Government reservation at Fort Monroe.

The new hospital will be constructed of timber, after the style of regular barracks, and will contain 1,000 beds. It is intended for the reception of sick soldiers returning from Porto Rico.

Looking ahead to the possibility of an extended occupation of Cuban ports by the United States

Army, with the resulting requirements upon the medical department and care of the sick soldiers, Surgeon-General Sternberg is planning for another hospital on even a larger scale at some of the larger forts below Fortress Monroe and more accessible from Cuba. He has appointed a medical board to make an inspection of available places, and the impression prevails that the hospital ships *Resolute* and *Missouri* are under orders to prepare immediately for a return trip to Porto Rico to bring back any sick soldiers requiring home treatment.

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From the report of the Freedman's Hospital, of Washington, the following information is given concerning schools for coloured nurses:—

The training school for nurses is another one of the experiments of the last year, which has produced practical results of a highly satisfactory character. There has been a marked change in the character and mental equipment of the young women who now apply for opportunities to fit themselves for this industrial profession. The lack of openings in other fields of usefulness, where bright young coloured women are permitted to enter and compete with their more favoured sisters for an honest livelihood has thrown into this comparatively new industrial pursuit, many young women who, having graduated from the high schools of the country, find themselves without opportunities for obtaining employment as teachers, typewriters, etc., and, coming into the training school of this hospital have completely transformed the conditions heretofore observable throughout the several wards. They have intelligently comprehended the character of their work, and have faithfully performed it. They have given earnest and painstaking service in the wards, and have applied themselves with great diligence and efficiency to the work of the lecture-room.

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The following hospitals admit, for training, coloured nurses in the United States: Dixie, Hampton, Va.; Frederick Douglass Memorial, Philadelphia; Freedmen's Washington; Phillis Wheatley Sanitarium, New Orleans, and Provident, Chicago.

The following hospitals admit coloured probationers:—All Saints', Kansas City, Mo.; Milwaukee City and County, Wauwatosa, Wis.; Medico Chirurgical, Philadelphia; New England for Women and Children, Roxbury, Boston; Philadelphia, Philadelphia; Williamsport, Williamsport, Penn.; and Western, Montreal, Canada.

This is certainly very satisfactory, when one recollects the fact that it is little more than thirty years since the civil war by which the coloured people in the United States were freed from slavery.

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