

German Red Cross Medal.

UPON the suggestion of the German Empress, the Emperor has ordered that a new medal shall be founded to be called the Red Cross Medal, as a reward for men and women who have rendered prominent service in connection with the Red Cross Society's work, either in peace or in war. The medal will have three ascending grades, bronze, silver, and gold. As a rule, only those who have worn the bronze medal for five years will be admitted to the privilege of wearing the medal of a higher grade.

The German Red Cross Society well deserves any mark of favour which can be bestowed upon it; its organization is very thorough, and its work of the utmost national value.

Military Nursing in the States.

THE report of the Military Board appointed to investigate the condition of the Hospital at Camp Thomas, U.S.A., fully endorses all the charges of inefficiency, and worse, which have from time to time been made public with regard to the management of the American Army Medical Department in the recent war. The Board state it to be their unanimous opinion that the cause of all the unnecessary suffering may be found in the principles governing the management of the Hospital. It is not conceivable, they say, that men taken from the ranks promiscuously, and with no previous preparation, and put in charge of helpless sick men, could do justice to them, and especially so when forced to act as nurses against their wills. Then follow other charges, lack of supplies, the housing of the sick in tents round which no trenches had been dug, and through which the water poured in streams, the inadequacy numerically of the nurses,—even had these been fully trained instead of untrained—one nurse to fifty patients. After this circumstantial evidence is given as to the way in which the patients were neglected. "No orders were given to wash the men," and their bodies were fly-blown, and disgustingly dirty. With regard to the typhoid wards, "man after man testifies to a most unmentionable state of affairs, maggots, stenches, filth, and worse, are all items that seem to have been so common in these wards that any man should have left them alive is the marvel." So the appalling record goes on. The whole report teems with conclusive evidence as to the most extraordinary incompetency of the hospital arrangements. The lessons of the nursing in this war, indeed, seem to be the entire mal-administration of the Army Medical Department, and the splendid patriotism and heroism of the American women. This last fact is the bright spot in a condition of things otherwise deplorable, because, the higher the level

attained by the women of any nation the nearer that nation is to an ideal condition. The sooner an Army Nursing Department is established in the United States, and some of the women, who have already done such excellent work in the organization of the civil hospitals are invited to take seats on its Board the better. We venture to say that the neglect of the sick, which has so disgraced the military department in the recent war, would never have occurred had the organization of the nursing been entrusted to the Superintendents of Nursing of some of the large hospitals.

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY has, we understand, had under careful consideration the question of bestowing badges of honour upon the nurses whose services were of such value in the recent war, at Camp Wikoff, and has referred the matter to the attention of the Committee appointed to examine into the conduct of the War Department. One suggestion has been made for dealing with the question of acknowledging the services of all the nurses who took part in the care of the sick during the war that "each State look after the nurses from that State, and in some way confer upon them some fitting acknowledgement."

Appointments.

MATRON.

MISS HENRIETTA Y HAWKINS has been appointed Matron to St. Luke's Home for the Dying, Osnaburgh Street. Miss Hawkins holds the three years' certificate of St. John's House, Norfolk Street, Strand, and received her training at Charing Cross Hospital, University College Hospital, and the Metropolitan Hospital, Kingsland Road. Since obtaining her certificate Miss Hawkins has held the position of Ward Sister at the Metropolitan Hospital, and for a short time the positions of Night Superintendent at the Royal Free Hospital, and Assistant Matron at the Hackney Infirmary, Homerton. She at present holds the positions of Theatre Sister, and Sister of a Male Ward at the National Orthopædic Hospital, Great Portland Street.

SUPERINTENDENT NURSE.

MISS MINA MORTON has been appointed Superintendent Nurse to the Stafford Union Infirmary. Miss Morton has held the position of nurse for three years in the Union Infirmary, Sheffield, and three years in the Union Infirmary, Sunderland, and Charge Nurse at the Fever Hospital, Stockton-on-Tees. She also holds the certificate of the London Obstetrical Society, as well as that of Queen Charlotte's Hospital.

SISTER.

MISS H. LAING has been appointed out-patient Sister at the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary, Derby. Miss Laing was trained for three years at the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool.

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