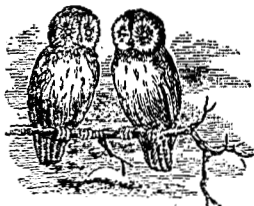


The Royal Red Cross.

THE QUEEN received two Nursing Sisters at Windsor on Thursday, the 8th, and conferred upon them the decoration of the Royal Red Cross. The two ladies who have received the decoration for services during the recent Soudan campaign are Miss Sarah Emily Webb, Superintendent Sister of the Army Nursing service, and Miss Elizabeth Geddes, National Aid Society. Miss Geddes is a member of the Nurses' Co-operation, is the daughter of a Fife schoolmaster, and began her training ten years ago in the Dundee Royal Infirmary. The Red Cross ship the *Mayflower* made three trips up the Nile, and brought down those of the sick and wounded who were unfit for the 700 miles of railway journey. It was of these Red Cross nurses had charge.

Miss Amy Florence Guest, the third Sister to be honoured with the distinction of the Royal Red Cross, is a regular Army Nursing Sister, and is still on duty at Cairo, nursing sick and wounded soldiers.

Matrons in Council.



THE Sixth Annual Meeting of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses will take place in Chicago in February next, Miss McIsaac, Superintendent of the Illinois

Training School at Chicago, being the president for the year. The programme as follows appears to us a specially interesting one, and we have no doubt the meeting will be as successful as those which have preceded it.

PROGRAMME.

- "The Work of Nursing the Insane," Miss M. E. May. Discussion: Miss Clark—Methods at Kankakee; Miss McKechnie—Methods at McLean.
- "Contagious Hospitals," Miss Griswold. Discussion: Miss Riddle—Work of the South Department; Miss Sanborn—Work of the Willard Parker.
- "The Record of Trained Nurses during the War," Miss Maxwell, Miss Palmer, Mrs. Quintard.
- "The Preparation of Pupils for Duties as Alumnae," Miss Walker. Discussion: Miss Cabaniss, Miss Breeze.
- "The Tendency of Nurses to Extravagance," Miss Twitchell. Discussion: Miss Greenwood, Miss Barnhart.
- "Class Clinic for Pupil Nurses"—A Demonstration, Miss McIsaac.

The Twentieth Century.

BY A CLAIRVOYANTE.

I WAS passing down one of the principal streets of the busy City of Birmingham, when I saw nurses streaming into a handsome building before me, and turned to my companion to enquire what it meant.

She seemed surprised at my want of knowledge. "It is examination time," she explained, and as I was still hopelessly in the dark, she enlightened my ignorance.

"Birmingham is one of the most important of the Local Centres," said she, "the fact that we are a University Town, and that the Matron of the General Hospital is a Professor of Nursing, and holds the Chair of Clinical Nursing in the University is one reason for this, but, of course, in a city of this size, in any case, there would be a large number of nurses up for each examination. Examinations are held twice a year, both preliminary and final. Candidates for the vacant probationers' posts in hospitals are bound to pass this examination before they are allowed to work in the wards, and further, before they can enter for this preliminary examination, which includes Domestic Economy, Cookery, and Housewifery, as well as Anatomy, Physiology, Hygiene, Sanitation, and elementary bandaging, they are bound either to produce certificates of general education, or to pass an examination in general subjects.

The examinations, both preliminary and final, are conducted by qualified medical men and Matrons."

"And how are the final examinations conducted?" I enquired.

"They are arranged on the same basis as the Oxford and Cambridge Local Examinations. Candidates may either obtain a pass certificate, or may graduate with first, second, or third class honours."

"How is that arranged?"

"On the same lines again as the Oxford and Cambridge Locals. There are certain subjects which are compulsory, and if a candidate does not satisfy the examiners in these, however brilliantly she may write other papers, she does not obtain a certificate at all. The compulsory subjects are, of course, medical, surgical, and obstetric nursing. Nursing as the handmaid of medicine must be organized on these lines, but it would be difficult, if not impossible to obtain sufficient marks in these three subjects to get into the honour lists, and therefore there is direct encouragement both to the nurses and to the training schools—who naturally wish their nurses to do well—to enter for other subjects. Such are the nursing of infectious fevers, the

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