

arrived at is that "the working of British Army Hospitals generally is very indifferently carried out, and in some of them the arrangements are little short of disgraceful." At Hong Kong, for instance, he asserts that we might well take a lesson from Portugal, which had a hospital at Macao which he would gladly have taken over. The Hospital was fitted up with separate wards for officers, non-commissioned officers and men, the medical and surgical cases were divided, and the nursing was most ably superintended by Sisters of Mercy, as well as the kitchen. An admirable operation room was also supplied, all the surgical instruments being placed in glass cases.

The arrangement for the invaliding of soldiers from Hong Kong appears incredible. Once a year were the sick sent home by a troop ship returning via Singapore (only one degree from the Equator), and only those who have seen a troop ship on her way home can estimate the discomfort of the long, hot journey across the Indian Ocean, and this, says Surgeon-Major, when the magnificent subsidised Naval Reserve ships of the Canadian Pacific Railway run every three weeks to Esquimaux, where there is a most suitable climate for a sanatorium for the debilitated convalescents from Hong Kong. He adds, "I have myself seen men who have been invalided die before the annual troopship arrived to take them away. I have also seen a man who was delayed from embarking in one troopship kept in hospital in Hong Kong for a whole year—a nuisance to everybody and at a needless expense to the country—until the next tardy annual transport arrived. The Hospital arrangements at Hong Kong were, therefore, a series of makeshifts which should barely have been tolerated even for an 'Army of Occupation,' while, considering that this Island has been a British Possession for nearly sixty years, the Military Hospital was simply a disgrace to civilisation. Our War Office would be well advised if it put some of its obstinate pride in its pocket and went to France, Germany, Japan, Italy, or even Portugal, for some novel, practical, and humanitarian ideas as to how Military Hospitals should be equipped and worked, for I regret to say that Great Britain is nearly half a century behind the times in this respect."

In conclusion he pleads for a certain amount of autonomy for the Army Medical Service, which is at present powerless to enforce its own recommendations, the War Office having the veto on all matters medical. The Director-General of this department should, he believes, be given a free hand, and then held responsible to the nation for his stewardship. Anything short of this will, he holds, land the Department in hopeless disaster in a big war.

Nursing Echoes.

* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



WE learn that a scheme of Pensions for the Nursing Staff calculated on a very liberal time scale, has been adopted by the Committee of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. This appears to us the most just method of awarding pensions instead of compelling a nurse to do twenty or twenty-five years service before being eligible for any monetary reward. After a nurse has served ten years she is eligible for a certain yearly pension, the higher scale being awarded according to her length of service. This is the sort of pension we understand, and of which we strongly approve.

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A MARRIAGE is announced between Miss M. Heather-Bigg, the Matron of the Chelsea Hospital for Women, and Mr. Bland-Sutton, Surgeon to that Institution, and assistant-surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital. Miss Heather-Bigg was appointed to her present position after the expose of mismanagement at Chelsea a few years ago, and she has been instrumental in introducing many reforms in the nursing department, and procuring many additional comforts for the nurses. We feel sure Miss Heather-Bigg will leave the Chelsea Hospital for Women amidst general regret.

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THE Indian Government has sanctioned the grant of the North-West Frontier gratuity to ten ladies of the Indian Army Nursing Service employed in the field during the Tirah operations. The rate is fixed at 7½ shares, the amount allotted to lieutenants. On some former occasions the Indian Army Nursing Sisters have had to provide the additional expenses of active service out of their usual allowances, which is decidedly unfair.

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THE Annual Meeting of the National Orthopaedic Hospital, Great Portland Street, was held at the Hospital on Tuesday afternoon last, the chair, in the unavoidable absence of the President, the Duke of Marlborough, being taken by Mr. J. R. Cooper, the Chairman of the Committee of Management. The Bolsover Street portion of

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