

An Act to Provide for the Employment of Graduate Women Nurses in Military Hospitals of the American Army.

By the kindness of a correspondent in the United States we are enabled to publish the provisions of the Act relating to the proposed American Army Nursing Service, which is to be brought before Congress.

THE ACT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that from and after the passage of this Act graduate women nurses in the proportion of not less than one half of one per cent. of the number of men in the United States Army shall be employed in the military hospitals, and shall constitute the women's nursing service of the Army.

Section 2.—That there shall be a Commission known as the Nursing Service Commission, composed of the Secretary of War, the General Commanding the Army, the Adjutant General, and the Surgeon General, ex-officio, and three women appointed by the President of the United States, two of whom shall be nurses, graduates of a general hospital training school, giving a course of instruction lasting not less than two years; and that this Commission shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, have general charge of the nursing service.

Section 3.—That there shall be a Superintendent of women nurses in the Army, who shall be a woman graduated from a general hospital training school for nurses, giving a course of instruction lasting not less than two years, and who shall be appointed by the President for a term of seven years, and confirmed by the Senate, from candidates nominated by the Commission. The Superintendent shall be subject to the orders of the Surgeon General.

Section 4.—That the nurses in the service shall be divided into an assistant superintendent, chief of nurses, head nurses, and assistant nurses, all of whom shall be graduates of similar training schools, and shall present credentials, and pass an examination and three months' probationary service in an army preparatory school, to the satisfaction of the Commission. Each chief of nurses shall be under the orders of and responsible to the Surgeon-in-Charge for the nursing care of the patients. Any nurse may be suspended by the chief of nurses for incompetency or misconduct, and may be discharged by the Surgeon General and the Superintendent of Nurses.

Section 5.—That all further rules and regulations regarding admission to, and the conduct of, the nursing service shall be formulated by the

Superintendent, subject to the approval of the Commission, and ward masters and hospital corps men, when detailed for service in hospital wards, shall be subject to these rules and regulations.

Section 6.—That a sufficient number of nurses for the immediate establishment of the nursing service, may, upon the passage of this Act, be appointed by the Commission without serving a probationary term.

Section 7.—All Acts and parts of Acts inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed.

THE WOMEN WHO FORM THE COMMITTEE.

The Committee to Secure by Act of Congress the Employment of Graduate Women Nurses in the Hospital Service of the United States Army has issued the following circular:—

Believing that our friends throughout the country will be glad to know more fully the extent of knowledge and experience of the women who stand as sponsors for the above-named Bill, we append, for personal information only, the following:—

The officers of the Committee are Mrs. Winthrop Cowdin, of New York City, Chairman; Mrs. Whitelaw Reid, New York City, Vice-Chairman, and Miss Laura D. Gill, Northampton, Mass., Secretary and Treasurer.

Mrs. Cowdin, the chairman, is the daughter of Bishop Potter, of New York, and from early childhood has been active in the many charities of her father's diocese. As a young married woman, she has taken on herself many duties in the interest of the public welfare and is identified with all that is best in New York reform work. During the continuance of the war and afterward, Mrs. Cowdin did a tremendous amount of work in succoring the sufferers as they were brought home, and was unceasing in her work as an officer in the Association for the Maintenance of Trained Nurses.

Mrs. Whitelaw Reid, the Vice-Chairman, has been always loyal in her devotion to the advancement of trained nursing. She became a manager of the Bellevue Training School for Nurses in 1882, and ever since by her personal support and influence has done much for it and also for Bellevue Hospital; her father, Mr. D. O. Mills, having presented to the city the Mills Training School for Male Nurses, built on Bellevue Hospital grounds. Mrs. Reid has been for seventeen years president of the New York House and School of Industry; she is also governor of the Woman's Hospital, New York City; manager of the Bethlehem Day Nursery, president of the Needlework Guild, and manager of the Young Woman's Christian Association.

While living in Paris, Mrs. Reid established the American Girls' Club, which she supports, and which affords cosy home surroundings to many American girl students of the Latin Quarter, in Paris.

Miss Laura D. Gill, the secretary and treasurer, is a Smith College graduate, and has marked business and executive ability. She rendered most valuable service to Mrs. Cowdin and Mrs. Reid in the trying time of the return of wounded and sick soldiers.

The Executive Committee is composed of women equally strong in social, philanthropic and professional life.

Mrs. W. H. Armstrong, of Hampton, Va., can be placed from the connection of the Armstrong name with

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