

The war of the past summer revealed the need of a larger and better-trained nursing service in the hospitals of the United States Army. Since the trained nurse has come to have a distinct professional existence, there had been, until the war, no such need.

The lack of any sufficiently expansive or regularly organized governmental provision for the work of women nurses gave ample scope for individual effort, and for each and every voluntary organization to serve as best it could. A vast amount of work was done, many soldiers were helped, many lives saved. As a result of practical, intelligent service, these workers reached clearly-defined conclusions as to the need of a better nursing service in the army, and the means by which such service can be secured and maintained.

A number of women thus informed recently called a meeting to consider the results of their experience and observation, and to embody their suggestions in a plan for future action. The outcome of this discussion was the appointment of a Committee to secure by Act of Congress the employment of graduate women nurses in the hospital service of the United States Army.

The Committee was chosen to represent the general interest of the home, the philanthropic interest of recent Relief Associations, and the professional interest of various Associations of Graduate Nurses.

It now rests with the intelligence of the country to speak through the Congress of the United States and to determine whether or not the continuous service of trained women nurses in military hospitals in times of peace and of war shall be authorized by law and provided for by United States statutes, and by Army regulations.

While acknowledging the efficiency of the hospital system in the past, we believe that the advances made in the profession of nursing include and necessitate the presence of women nurses if the best results are to be ensured in military as well as in civil hospitals.

The Committee hopes that this Bill will meet with your approval and enlist your hearty co-operation and support throughout the entire range of your influence, and that you will write the Committee what you can do to help in the passage of the Bill, or, in any event, to assure them of your approval.

Also: We ask you to write to your Congressmen and Senators at Washington urging them to give earnest and prompt support to the Bill entitled "A Bill to Authorise and to Provide for the Employment of Graduate Women Nurses in the Hospitals of the U. S. Army." This Bill may be passed alone, or may be incorporated as an Amendment to the Hull Bill. In either case it will be known as "The Woman's Nursing Service Bill," and immediate action on your part will help to carry this important measure. It may be that, in the chances to which all legislation is subject, your influence will save the Bill:

Yours faithfully,  
THE COMMITTEE.

It is noteworthy that it is the women, and more especially the prominent nurses in the United States, who are taking a leading part in urging the passage of this Bill. It is a most gratifying proof of the ability and the public spirit of American nurses that this should be the case, and we congratulate them upon their action.

## Legal Matters.

### "NOT A BIT TOO STRONG."

#### WESTMACOTT V. WESTMACOTT.

In this case Anna Mary Charlotte Westmacott sought for a judicial separation on the ground of her husband's adultery.

Mr. Inderwick, Q.C., in opening the case, said that the respondent, Mr. Edward Vesey Westmacott, married the petitioner on February 12, 1874, at St. Paul's Cathedral, Calcutta, he being then an Indian Civil servant. There were two children of the marriage. About August, 1892, the petitioner heard from her husband in India telling her that he had met a nurse who was a second-class passenger on the ship he had sailed in. The name of this nurse was Miss Mary Barkley, and it transpired that she subsequently went to the respondent's house in India, he having met with an accident. The petitioner objected to this lady's presence at her husband's house, but he replied that he was not going to let her make his house her head-quarters. The petitioner subsequently sailed from England, and from rumours that she gathered on board ship she came to the conclusion that Miss Mary Barkley was not a good companion for her son to meet. After her husband's return to England she had him watched, and in June of last year he was seen coming out of the United Service Club, and was followed to Miss Barkley's rooms. On the 28th of the same month the two were followed to an hotel at Oxford, where they stayed the night, the respondent giving the name of Walker.

Mr. Justice Gorell Barnes said that he was satisfied that the charge of adultery had been made out, and granted a judicial separation with costs.

We specially call attention to this case because it proves once more the necessity of protecting reputable trained nurses, and the general public, by State registration, from women who combine two vocations with some financial profit. We have some evidence before us of the career of the nurse in this case, and we find that she is a Registered Member of the Royal British Nurses' Association. Miss Barkley began her training at the London Hospital in 1886, but remained in that institution very few months; in the following year we find her a probationer in St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, and considering her reputation at the London, we wonder somewhat to find her immediately admitted as a Probationer into another London Training School. In 1889 Miss Barkley went to India, and the ruin of

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