

from each and all is almost incessant, and must be most trying to any sick person. Further, and of still greater weight, are the facts that the means for cooling the hospital in the tropics are inadequate, and for heating it out of the tropics insufficient.

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"THE number of skilled attendants allotted to the hospital on a troopship is inadequate, being only 1 non-commissioned officer and 3 or 4 privates of the Royal Army Medical Corps, supplemented often, and largely, by untrained "orderly comrades." There are no nursing sisters for a hospital on board the troopship. There is not even a matron on a troopship in the case of sickness occurring among the officers' wives or children. How are such cases to be treated satisfactorily in the absence of matron or nurses?"

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"OF the average number of invalids sent home annually, it may safely be said that one half are constantly under treatment and require special care, nursing, and diet. Under existing arrangements in the troopships, although all is done that the circumstances permit, still it would be preposterous to state that these cases are placed under the conditions required for successful treatment.

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"IN advocating properly equipped hospital ships for the conveyance of sick and invalided officers and men, it is unnecessary to discuss their construction and equipment, for the War Office, guided by the Medical Department, has already excellent models to work on, for example, the Victor Emanuel during the Ashanti war 1873-74, which was most successful, and a detailed account of which was given by the medical officer in 1882, fully described by the medical officer in charge in the "Army Medical Report" of 1884, p. 327; the Coromandel, by the medical officer in charge in the Army Medical Report of 1895, p. 317. It seems well nigh impossible to suggest any improvement on the organisation and arrangements of these hospital ships, and the provision of a few of them for the purpose advocated in the present paper, although they must cost money, would at all events show the world that we are not unconcerned about the comfort of our sick and wounded, whom as a strong and wealthy nation we are bound to place under the best conditions for recovery from sickness or wounds."

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THE following circular letter has been sent to the clerk of each union in Ireland by the Secretary of the Local Government Board: "SIR,—The Local Government Board for Ireland desire to state that they have recently received communications from several Boards of Guardians inquiring

the qualifications a workhouse hospital nurse should possess in order that the Guardians may be in a position to apply for recoupment out of the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account of one half of the salary of such nurse. The Local Government Board have to inform you that it is proposed in due course to prescribe the following qualifications as necessary in the case of any person claiming to be a "trained nurse" for the purposes of Section 58, Sub-Section 2 (a) (ii.) of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898. The term 'trained nurse' shall mean any person who has resided for not less than two years in a clinical or other hospital recognised by the Local Government Board, and who, after examination, has obtained from such hospital a certificate of proficiency in nursing. The Board have to point out, in connection with this matter, that they will not be prepared to accept the certificate of the authorities and staff of any hospital except a hospital recognised by the medical examining bodies in Ireland, England, or Scotland, unless the non-clinical hospital has at least 150 beds for medical and surgical cases, and unless due provision is also made for giving the probationer nurses a course of training in the nursing of cases of infectious diseases. In addition, the hospital should have a staff of at least one resident, and two visiting physicians, and a trained head nurse. Such arrangements should likewise be made, including the giving of lectures and the holding of examinations, as shall satisfy the Local Government Board that sufficient opportunities are afforded to the persons undergoing instruction to become fully trained, experienced, and certificated nurses.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"THOS. A. MOONEY, Secretary."

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THIS letter is chiefly interesting to the nursing profession at large, as the first evidence of any State Body in this country defining a "standard" of nursing, and we congratulate Ireland on taking the initiative in a course which will ultimately compel the Nursing Authorities of the United Kingdom to come to some definite conclusion on this important question.

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WE learn from Zanzibar that many people are still of opinion that there will be an outbreak of plague in the island when the South Monsoon comes with its usual results. There is such constant communication, however, between Bombay and Zanzibar, as well as between Zanzibar and Madagascar, that the greatest credit will be due to the authorities of the port if they succeed in preventing infected cases from landing.

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