

number of trained nurses from among those who had been in active service during the war or of experience as superintendents of nurses, whose time and services were available for bringing the matter to the notice of the authorities in Washington. After the formation of this Committee any active part taken by the Associated Alumnæ as a body was at an end, since the Committee felt that in any bill on army nursing trained nurses should be considered as a professional body and that in its enactments, no exclusive society should be recognized. In drawing up the bill the endeavour was made to embody all the essentials that would assure a high order of nursing. It is indeed most important that "the first steps should be carefully taken in order not to bring the whole subject of women nurses in the army into unmerited disrepute." The following statement, read in Washington at one of the meetings held in favour of the bill, admirably expresses what the Committee had in mind and will convey to your minds their views far better than could any words of mine.

February 2nd, 1899.

The views of the Chiefs of the large Training Schools for women nurses and of the ladies who are especially interested in this movement is that it is a matter of very great importance to select proper women for the first appointments as nurses in the army service, under this or any other bill.

It is not merely that the persons so selected should be able to pass an ordinary examination to determine the capacity of the trained nurse, such as might possibly be provided by the Civil Service Commission, but they should be persons who are selected for their tact and discretion, and, to a considerable extent, for business capacity, and that the only persons who can obtain perfectly reliable information upon these points are the heads of some of the more important Training Schools, or persons who have been connected with them.

The feeling of those who are urging this bill is that it is a reasonably certain way to secure for the army the kind of women nurses whom it is so desirable to obtain, and while the method proposed may not be precisely in accordance with military precedent, they feel bound to urge it in view of the great importance of the matter.

The ordinary method would be, of course, to provide that these nurses should be selected by the Surgeon-General of the Army, which would mean by a Board to be organized by him. But no Board which he could organize, composed of members of the Medical Staff, could by any possibility obtain the information as to qualifications, outside of the purely technical qualifications above referred to, and it would find itself unable

to judge of the relative merits of the various testimonials and certificates with which it is quite certain that every candidate who came before such a Board, would be amply provided. Unless we can make sure that the right kind of women are selected in the beginning to take charge of the introduction of women nurses into the army, we think it doubtful whether it would be worth while to attempt to introduce women nurses at all at the present time, for a very few women, having more zeal than discretion and not able to cope with the various petty difficulties which are sure to occur at first, will be likely to bring the whole subject of Women Nurses in the Army into unmerited disrepute.

It follows, therefore, that the standard for these first nurses to be appointed must necessarily be high. Our object should be to secure women who can manage, or if necessary, instruct less qualified nurses whom it may be necessary to employ hereafter. It would be the greatest possible mistake to employ any but the very best nurses to begin this work.

(To be continued.)

Appointments.

MATRON.

MISS S. EMILY POLDEN has been appointed Matron of the Royal United Hospital, Bath. Miss Polden was trained and certificated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. In January of last year she was appointed Night Sister at the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum, and two months later Assistant Matron at the same institution. The latter position she still holds. Miss Polden is also a member of the League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses.

MISS LAURA ANNIE UPTON has been appointed Nurse-Matron at the Infectious Hospital, Kingsthorpe, Southampton. She received her training at the Royal Infirmary, Manchester, and the Monsall Fever Hospital, and has held the positions of Sister at the Hull Sanatorium, Sister at the Plaistow Fever Hospital, Assistant Matron at the Hornsey Isolation Hospital, and Ward Sister at the Borough Hospital, Wolverhampton.

HEAD NIGHT NURSE.

MISS FANNY BROTHERTON has been appointed Head Night Nurse at the Aston Union Workhouse Infirmary, Gravelly Hill, near Birmingham. Miss Brotherton was trained at the Toxetti Township Infirmary, and has held the position of Staff Nurse in that institution as well as at the Chelsea Workhouse Infirmary. She at present holds the position of Nurse in Charge of Infectious Cases at Prescott Infirmary, Whiston.

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