

tholomew's Hospital; Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, formerly Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital and Councillor of the Matrons' Council; Miss M. Mollett, Matron, Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital, Southampton, Vice-Chairman; and Miss Margaret Breay, formerly Matron of the Metropolitan Hospital, Kingsland Road, the Hon. Secretary.

At the present time, in no Government Department are nursing interests represented. In the Navy, the Army, the Indian Army, the Colonial Nursing Association, and under the Local Government Board, nursing matters are arranged without the advice of trained Matrons being sought. The *professional* side of nursing is not, so far, officially recognised by any of these departments. Nurses are engaged by them at a definite salary, and placed in certain positions, much as domestic servants are engaged. It follows, necessarily, that nursing interests being unrepresented are practically shelved. These facts are realised and deplored by those nurses who have their heart in their work. Much dissatisfaction has been expressed privately and unofficially as to the way in which nurses have been selected for service with the various hospitals organised in connection with the war in South Africa, at the present time, by unprofessional persons. The Matrons' Council has adopted a wiser course. It has recognised its responsibility as a professional society and formulated its views, and has asked to be heard in its official capacity, and, there is no doubt, that not only the members of the society, but the profession generally, are indebted to the Council for publicly demonstrating that, in their opinion, nurses should be consulted upon questions affecting their professional interests.

To the Admiralty must be given the credit for being the first Governmental Department to officially recognise this truth, and to receive a deputation of trained nurses to speak on their own affairs. The time has come when nursing may claim to have evolved, as the necessary complement of medicine and surgery, into a skilled and scientific profession, and as such to be accorded professional representation. The most important and crucial suggestion made by the deputation to Mr. Austen Chamberlain on Tuesday last was that a Nursing Department should be formed in affiliation with the Medical Department at the Admiralty, superintended by a fully trained and experienced administrative nursing officer, who, in conjunction with the Director-General, would deal with all matters

of organization and discipline, and select all nursing officers, in the Naval Nursing Service, and who, further, would periodically inspect the Nursing and Domestic Departments of Naval Hospitals. The need of such a Department in connection with all the Government Nursing Services is imperative, and one which no doubt must ultimately be adopted.

Annotations.

BRITISH PLUCK.

THE present war has revealed much to us, and its lessons have been salutary if sometimes unpleasant. But of one thing at least the British nation has reason to be proud, and that is the magnificent heroism and endurance of its soldiers. Whether in the field or during the long agony of journeys by train, wounded and dying, the story of their splendid self-control has over and over again caused their countrymen and women to thrill with pride. We read in our morning paper: "Meet any of those ambulance trains and see for once what has to be coped with; see, too, the wonderful pluck and endurance—the patient, silent, suffering—and a new world is opened to one. . . Seven poor fellows, wounded to the death, slept their last sleep on that journey down, yet in all those train-loads, except in one instance, never a sound, never a murmur." Again, while we honour the soldiers who have so splendidly fought, and won our country's battles, let us not forget those who have suffered for us during the long and wearisome illness to which so many of our brave troops have succumbed. There is apparently nothing glorious in enduring day after day the pain and weakness of an attack of dysentery or enteric fever, but the heroism of the soldier who longs to be at the front, and yet uncomplainingly submits to a tedious and painful illness is equally deserving of his country's gratitude."

THE DOECKER HUTS AT NETLEY.

WE are requested by the secretary of the Central British Red Cross Committee to state that the Doecker huts recently erected at Netley, which were inspected by the Prince and Princess of Wales on Monday, were not lent by the German Red Cross Society. The secretary explains that through the kindness of the Central Committee of the German Red Cross Societies, the British Central Committee was able to obtain within a very

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