

prejudicially, intentionally, or unintentionally, not only the staff of the *Maine* but all women nurses, we feel compelled to refer to this matter, and to express the opinion that it was not the conditions of the work, but other avoidable difficulties which made the position of the women nurses on the *Maine* an undesirable one.

We gather, in the first place, that Miss Hibbard was not accorded a position of absolute control in the nursing department. It was understood when she came to this country that she was engaged as Superintendent of Nursing, and the Sisters as supervisors, having to help them thoroughly efficient male nurses. It appears, however, that this has not been the method employed on this hospital ship and that nursing etiquette has not been strictly adhered to, and in proof of this we have only to state that Lady Randolph Churchill—the Chairwoman of the Committee—overstepped, in our opinion, the line of demarcation which divides the position of the laywoman in relation to the sick from that of the professional one. Lady Randolph Churchill presumably, or it was so stated, accompanied the *Maine* as the representative of the Committee, and as General Administrator, and this of course was eminently desirable, but, when we find that she donned the nurses' professional cap, and that she was known by the professional title of "Sister Jennie" and took the lead in professional matters, it is easy to realise that such arrangements must have resulted in disorganization.

We must make it quite plain that neither directly from Miss Hibbard, nor from any of the Sisters have we received one word as to this violation of professional etiquette. It comes to us, however, on excellent authority, and as, from our point of view, it is unjust that our sick soldiers who accept the hospitality of the *Maine* should be deprived of the services of women nurses, we desire to make it quite plain to our readers—especially to that numerous section of them who reside in the United States—that we blame the organisation of the nursing system on board the *Maine*, and not the nursing sisters, for this exclusion of women nurses from their rightful sphere on a hospital ship.

As evidence of the position which Miss Hibbard was accorded, we have only to draw attention to the statement furnished by Lady Randolph Churchill to Reuter of the work done on board the *Maine*, which has been accorded the wide publicity usually given to information

emanating from this source. In discussing the staff, Lady Randolph says, "The male nurses have been a great success, and I can but give unqualified praise to their work. They do the Mills School the greatest credit." This is no doubt true, though a statement as to the professional qualifications of the nursing staff would have come better from Miss Hibbard herself. Then Lady Randolph proceeds "praise is due to the Superintending Sister, Miss Hibbard, for her energetic and untiring work," and lastly, "the four sisters under her charge worked well, and this sometimes under very trying circumstances."

Thus we find the work of the Superintendent of Nursing dovetailed in between that of her subordinates, a sidelight on the lack of discipline and professional etiquette as practised on the *Maine*, a condition of affairs which we are convinced was neither anticipated nor desired by the many generous and able American women who compose the Committee of the American Hospital Ship.

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### Annotations.

#### THE PRIVILEGE OF POMPADOUR.

It is well to see ourselves as others see us, and the plain speaking of the press on the scandal at the Cape, to which Mr. Treves gave voice at the Reform Club dinner, will, we hope, result in the society women concerned seeing themselves in their true and odious character, and will also, we should hope, influence the "fount of all honour," in the bestowal of rewards when the war is at an end. As the first and only home journal to denounce this national disgrace, before Mr. Treves spoke out, the NURSING RECORD can congratulate itself that its views are now universally expressed by all the leading journals.

On this subject, the Military Correspondent of the *Westminster Gazette* goes to the root of the matter. "There are two topics," he writes, "which have lately attracted a great deal of notice, which may almost be said to amount to scandals. The first, is, of course, the flutter caused by the undesired presence of petticoats and fashionable chiffons at the Cape. It is almost incredible that women are to be found so lost to all sense of the fitness of things as to obtrude themselves, their furbelows, and their frivolities, on those who are, or ought to be, fully occupied with the most exhausting and

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)