

(B.) *Register of Nurses.*—At present no definite Register of Nurses exists, showing place of training, etc. Such a Register is needed, and this Corps now proposed could begin such a Register.

(C.) *Sick Fund.*—It would become possible to gradually develop a Sick Fund for the support of Nurses falling into ill health.

(D.) *Pension Fund.*—A Pension Fund for Superannuated Nurses is much needed. This Association could gradually form such a fund.

(E.) *Power of Expulsion of Unfit Persons.*—No definite power of expelling unfit persons from the body of Nurses in general now exists. This Corps, through its Council, could gradually take up such work, which is certainly wanted.

(F.) *Self-Government.*—This proposed movement would, if carried out, give to the Nursing Profession as distinct an autonomy and self-government as is enjoyed in most organized professions. It would associate in one body the various disunited and scattered elements of Nursing in the Metropolis. It would develop social intercourse between the Nurses. The development of professional efficiency would follow out a combination as is here suggested. There is to-day very considerable ignorance as to "How to become a Nurse," and there is distinct room for a Society to protect the Nursing Community. All this could follow from the suggested Corps.

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N.B.—Any suggestions or emendations of the above scheme would be heartily welcomed.—G. J. H. E.

Nurses for China.

THE German Hospital ship *Gera*, escorted by three torpedo boats, has sailed for China.

The French transport *Notre Dame du Salut*, carrying troops and a large staff of doctors and nurses, has also left for Shanghai. On her arrival the *Notre Dame du Salut* will be converted into a hospital ship and will hoist the flag of the French Red Cross Society.

Six hundred Nursing Sisters are also being sent to the Far East by the Russian Red Cross Society.

All our allies are clearly on the alert in nursing matters, and we shall do well to look to our own laurels.

Army Nursing Notes.

Continuing their investigations on Tuesday, 31st July, the Hospitals Commission had several interesting witnesses before them, notably Mr. Burdett-Coutts, M.P. He stuck to his guns all along the line of his former statements in the *Times*, and had all his facts at his fingers' ends.

Mr. Coutts explained his meaning of the word "inhumanity," used by him. He said:—"That expression has been taken hold of as I never intended it. What I meant was inhumanity arising from the deficiencies of medical comforts. I never had the slightest intention of making any reflection upon the Army Service Corps. They were working under superhuman difficulties which they should never have had to encounter."

Mr. Coutts scored a very important point in answer to the question, "When you say that there were a thousand stricken men unnursed you do not mean untended?"—"I did not say untended, but unnursed; there was only one female nurse there and an extremely small percentage of trained orderlies. They left the patients to convalescents who could not do the work and had no experience of nursing or treatment of the sick. There were several other field hospitals that were not so bad as this 12th Brigade Hospital, but very nearly as bad." Tending is not nursing."

Mr. Coutts, with ourselves, sees no difficulty in having female nurses in the field hospitals, as the following question and answer prove. "Would not it be difficult to have females with hospitals in the field?"—"I cannot understand the difficulty. Of two general hospitals at Bloemfontein one was further from the town than the field hospital I am speaking of, and it was largely composed of bell tents, but no one thought of excluding nurses. The female nurses always had tents, and there was not the slightest reason why they should not have been lodged there."

Mr. Coutts said he came from Sand River with 100 or 150 sick and wounded with one orderly. Those men took 20 hours to get to Bloemfontein, and the whole of them, irrespective of their complaints, had a ration of bully beef and a little, very much watered, condensed milk. He knew of two other instances of men extremely ill of dysentery being sent all the way to Cape Town with nothing but bully beef and biscuit. If they had had one single orderly at stations along the line who could have made beef tea it would have made all the difference. There was a remarkable difference in the percentage of mortality

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