

same official who censored the despatches had the whole control of the movements of the correspondents, and he thought that those two offices should be separated. The censor, too, ought to be a military man, because the civilian, once he got into khaki, would out-Herod Herod in his militarism. The Under-Secretary had said nothing about the large vote for the Army Medical Department. At present the Department possessed no transport of its own, and could not make preparations for pressure in any particular place. In the present campaign a remarkable service had been rendered by the Irish Hospital and the New South Wales Field Hospital, both of which had their own transport. What proportion of the extra stores to be provided were to be medical stores? The R.A.M.C. had nothing of its own but medicines and drugs. Would the necessary equipment for the corps form part of the extra stores? But the disastrous results in South Africa in connection with the medical service had been caused more by an absence of men than by the absence of equipment. The Army Medical Corps had been undermanned in doctors, in orderlies, and in nurses, and that was why the sick and wounded could not receive proper attention. Was any portion of the vote devoted to permanent work to go towards securing a better state of things in future? It was impossible to maintain in peace an Army Medical Department equal to the strain of a great war; but there should be some system whereby skilled aid could be called on in case of necessity. There was no such system now, and no reserve and auxiliary staff attached to the Volunteers and Militia. The New South Wales Field Hospital—that magnificent unit, so splendidly equipped and disciplined—was entirely composed of civilians; and it afforded a model on which an effective improvement of the Army Medical Department might be based. He had heard Army officers say that it took three years to train an Army Medical orderly, but he did not think that any system of theoretically training orderlies would supply what was needed in time of war. What was the alternative? If they could not have a large number of men nurses, they had always at their disposal female nurses all over the country. One of his great complaints had been the obstinate objection to female nurses on the part of the Department at home. He thought that this objection on the part of the Army Medical Department at home ought to be overcome, and we ought to accept at once in a campaign carried on in a civilized country like South Africa, where the character and safety of women were respected, the principle of a very large number of female nurses certainly at the base and the stationary hospitals."

The National Hospital Controversy.

A SPECIAL general meeting of the governors and subscribers of the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, Queen's Square, Bloomsbury, was held at that institution on Saturday last "to consider and determine the following questions:—(1) Whether the demand of the medical and surgical staff for direct representation upon the Board should be granted; and (2) whether it is desirable to hold a further inquiry into the condition of the hospital." Mr. G. W. E. Russell presided, and the meeting was attended by some sixteen persons. The medical staff declined to attend the meeting, partly because of the manner and time of its being called together, and partly because, even if eligible as governors, they are unable, as members of the staff, to vote for or against resolutions. The Chairman stated that the responsibility for the date of the meeting rested with the medical staff, who, in their letter to the *Times* of July 28th, stated that the differences between them and the Board of Management were irreconcilable. When that announcement was made they felt they must take notice of it, and they had, therefore, summoned this meeting at the earliest possible date. Referring to the second point for consideration, the Chairman said that he had presided over the Sub-Committee appointed to enquire into the internal management of the hospital. While it would be ridiculous to say that the arrangements were in no respects capable of improvement, such faults as they did discover were minute, and well within the power and will of the Board to remedy. An outside enquiry would be a costly matter, but if the Governors thought that, in the interests of the patients, further enquiry was necessary, the Board would offer no opposition. With regard to the other matter, the demand of the medical staff for representation on the Board, they were agreed that that claim must be resisted, though, at the same time, the Board had always realized and still felt that there should be free interchange of opinion between the medical staff and the Board. There was a medical Sub-Committee, and the Board had never dreamed of restricting the staff to communicating with them through the Secretary Superintendent. He moved:—"That it is inexpedient to grant the demand of the medical and surgical staff for direct representation on the Board." This was seconded by Mr. J. S. Hopwood, and carried by 14 votes to two.

This decision does not affect the serious statement made in the document issued by the staff in May last to the Governors. This set forth (we quote from the *Times*) "that, to the know-

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