

The War Office has not yet realized that trained nursing has become systematized in the last quarter of a century, and until the full force of this change is recognized, as is the case in the best managed civil hospitals, and trained nursing receives its place as a necessary adjunct of medical and surgical treatment, it will be impossible to give the sick soldier the care which is his due. Such recognition implies that a fully qualified nursing officer shall be appointed as the responsible head of the Army Nursing Service.

We desire to draw the attention of the new Secretary of State for War to this salient point, for it is probable that, as a politician, this women's work has not presented itself to Mr. Brodrick with any degree of force. If however he wishes to perfect the Army System in all its branches he must perforce give the question of Army Nursing his earnest consideration, for it is a vital one. Our Ministers must not for one moment minimize the significance of those daily columns telling of disease and death, which, under the title of "War Casualties" have been issued by the press for months past. Every line of these, as a two edged sword, goes straight home to the hearts of the mothers, wives, and lovers of the Empire's defenders. Of the men who fall in battle the fact that they died an honourable death in the performance of their duty salves to some extent the poignant sorrow of those who mourn them, but no such consolation can assuage the grief of those bereaved relatives who mourn for loved ones who have died long, lingering, and horrible deaths, from preventable disease, martyrs to a system of ignorance, neglect and partizanship.

Poignancy is also added to our women's distress, by the knowledge that many of our sex have experience gained by many years of arduous nursing work, and the training of nurses, which if utilised by the War Office, could speedily evolve an efficient nursing service for the sick and wounded "broken in our wars," and it is the disregard of this knowledge, and consequent waste of talent, because it is possessed by women and not by men, that adds insult to injury. Indeed in the words of Miss Louisa Stevenson: "For all the impression that the magnificent services of Florence Nightingale in the Crimean War have made on the Army Medical Authorities, as to what the knowledge and experience of women can accomplish, it might be imagined that they had never even heard of her or her work!"

### Annotations.

#### PRINCE OF WALES' HOSPITAL FUND.

THE Hon. Secretaries of the Prince of Wales' Hospital Fund have issued an appeal for subscriptions, and state that it is desirable that help, up to the minimum amount of £25,000, shall be forthcoming by the 15th December. No special appeal has been issued since the Spring of 1899, and there is a marked decline in this year's revenue. With the more generous support of our hospitals we are heartily in sympathy; but we are not in sympathy with Sir Henry Burdett's scheme as at present constituted. The centralisation of charitable funds for the benefit of the London hospitals has been most injurious to the individual support given to these institutions, and it is not wise that the hospitals should depend for financial help upon so unrepresentative a body as the Council of the Prince of Wales' Fund is. We have only to glance at the scale of awards to wonder why one general hospital is excluded, and another donated thousands of pounds annually, and we frankly own that in our opinion, no unprofessional person editing a hospital newspaper—in part supported by advertisements paid for by the Committees of Hospitals—should sit on its distributing committee, and act as an inspector of these institutions. Moreover, women are totally excluded from representation on the Prince of Wales' Hospital Fund Council, and in consequence from any part in its management. In a word the Fund is not administered by a liberally constituted Government, and is therefore out of date, and unpopular.

#### A MEMORIAL TO MISS MARY KINGSLEY.

It is fitting that a suitable memorial should be raised to Miss Mary Kingsley, whose sad and apparently needless death in South Africa, after she had successfully braved all the dangers of the deadly West Coast, is still fresh in all minds. A movement was at once set on foot by Liverpool and Manchester merchants to perpetuate her memory by building a small hospital to bear her name in connection with the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. Some of Miss Kingsley's friends, however, desire that her name should be associated with a Society for the Study of Native Customs and Laws, to be named "The Mary Kingsley Society of West Africa," and that its object should be to stimulate research, and to collect from all sources information

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