

intendent of the Dublin Nursing Institution, from the clerk of the Armagh Union:—

"I am directed by the Board of Guardians of Armagh Union to inform you that the following resolution was unanimously passed by them at their meeting held on the 5th inst.:—

That we hereby record our warm appreciation of the great skill and care displayed by the City of Dublin Nursing Institution Nurses, whose services were procured for the Armagh Union Fever Hospital during the severe outbreak of enteric fever which commenced in last July and continued up till 1st inst., and we desire to express our extreme regret that Nurse Mutton contracted the disease while so faithfully and skilfully discharging her duties.

At the same meeting the Guardians had before them a letter from the medical officer (Dr. Herron) reporting that all the patients treated in the Fever Hospital during the period mentioned had recovered. This desirable issue Dr. Herron attributes mainly to the great care and attention of the several nurses procured from the City of Dublin Nursing Institution, and he especially mentions Nurse Mutton in this respect.

The several nurses whose skilful services the Guardians and medical officer desire to commend are as follows: Nurse F. Mutton, Nurse Cribbon, Nurse A. P. Kennedy, Nurse Lowe, Nurse A. O'Reilly, and Nurse Caffrey."

Mr. C. Harding Firth has an interesting article in this month's *Cornhill Magazine*, on the sick and wounded in the great Civil War. No adequate account of the provision made for sick and wounded soldiers during that time of stress and storm has before been given to the public, and Mr. Firth has made the most of the fragmentary materials at his disposal.

"Surgeons," says an Elizabethan writer, "must wear their baldric (distinguishing badge), whereby they may be known in time of slaughter; it is their charter in the field," and military surgeons seem to have been treated by both parties as non-combatants.

There were no movable hospitals attending the army during the campaign. An order of Parliament in June, 1643, recites, "that the Lord General hath been enforced to send back many sick soldiers to be billeted in some remote houses and towns, some miles distant from London, till it shall please God to restore them to health and ability to return again to his army." The badly wounded were left in villages near the field of battle, where something might be paid for their maintenance; more often they were left to their own resources.

On November 16th, 1644, the four great hospitals of St. Bartholomew's, Bridewell, St. Thomas, and Bethlem were freed by Parliamentary ordinance from all taxes and assessments on the ground that, "great numbers of sick, wounded, and other soldiers have, for the time of twenty months past, been constantly kept in the said hospitals, at very great and extraordinary charges, especially for their care and diet." During 1644 St. Bartholomew's claimed to have cured 1,122 "maimed soldiers and other diseased persons, all of which," adds the report, "have been relieved with money and other necessaries at their departure." Other hospitals were subsequently established at the headquarters of the armies in Ireland, Scotland, and Flanders.

It is interesting to note that in these robust times the surgeons and physicians had no foolish antipathy to female nurses. The nursing was entirely done by women, the hospital orderly did not exist. The nurses of the Savoy Hospital, the first military hospital created by Parliament during the war, were ordered "to be chosen from the widows of soldiers so far as fit ones can be found," and when General Venables was censured for taking his wife with him on the disastrous expedition to the West Indies, and allowing some of his soldiers to be accompanied by their wives, he answered that anybody who had been in the Irish wars knew "the necessity of having that sex with an army to attend upon and help the sick and wounded, which men are unfit for. Had more women gone," he concluded, "I suppose that many would not have perished as they did for want of care and attendance."

In the London military hospitals twenty-nine nurses were allowed to an average of 350 patients; in the Dublin Hospital one nurse for every ten patients; in the Edinburgh Hospital there was one to every five "weak men," and one per ward "where the patients are ambulant." The nurses were paid £10 a year each in Dublin, and 4s. to 4s. 6d. a week in Edinburgh.

Rules were also drawn up to guide the conduct of both soldiers and nurses. A soldier who got drunk or use profane language was to be fined, or for the third offence expelled. A nurse who neglected her duty, or "made any disturbance by scolding, brawling, or chiding" was to be punished in the same way. If a soldier married a nurse both were to be at once expelled! This is an article to be read with profit and pleasure, and filed for future reference.

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