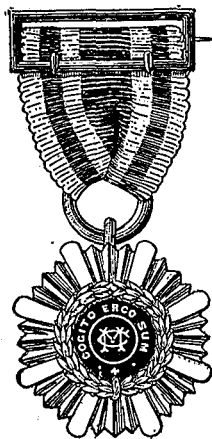


## The Matrons' Council.

### ARMY NURSING REFORM.



Lord Raglan, Under-Secretary of State for War, on Tuesday received a deputation from the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, who laid before him suggestions of a practical nature in reference to Army Nursing Reform. The deputation consisted of Miss Isla Stewart, President of the Society; Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President of the International Council of Nurses; Miss M. Huxley, Matron of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital; Miss G. Knight, Matron of the General Hospital, Nottingham; Miss Mollett, Matron of the Royal South Hants Hospital, Southampton; Miss Beatrice Jones, Matron of the Victoria Park Hospital; and Miss M. Breay, Hon. Secretary.

The Matrons presented a Report advocating the need of a Nursing Department at the War Office, affiliated with the Medical Department, and superintended by a fully-trained and experienced administrative nursing officer, whose duties might advantageously include the selection of nursing officers, the organization and the maintenance of discipline, a periodical inspection of the nursing department and of the domestic arrangements in connection therewith, in military hospitals.

The Report also defined the standard of training, and grades of nursing officers and orderlies, and laid great stress on the necessity of all orderlies being placed, when on duty in the wards, under the authority of the Nursing Sisters.

In the opinion of the Matrons' Council, the organization of an effective Army Nursing Reserve, to be called out in time of war, can only be satisfactory if kept up to a minimum standard of efficiency in time of peace; and as a fundamental principle, any such Reserve must be an integral part of the Army Nursing Service, and, consequently, under the control of the War Office both in times of peace and war. Every element of lay control and philanthropy should be eliminated from the constitution of such a Service. Effective organization can only be accomplished by the hearty co-operation of the Army Medical and Nursing Departments, which conjoint body should draft an efficient constitution for the Reserve Service, whereby each nurse admitted should (1) hold a certificate of three

years training from a general hospital of not less than 80 beds, and (2) have passed through a short term of training in a military hospital, which should include instruction in ambulance and emergency nursing, both in practice and theory, such as will fit them for nursing in camps and in the field.

Miss Isla Stewart supplemented the Report by pointing out that the Nursing Sisters had no control over the orderlies, nor the ward master, who was responsible for the cleanliness of the ward and diets of the patients, and laid emphasis on the necessity for the Sister of the ward being placed in a position of control in regard to these matters.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick considered that the organization of an efficient Reserve Service could only be effected by the co-operation of the leading training schools, the Matrons of which institutions were most capable of selecting suitable Sisters as required. Chaos had resulted in the nursing of the army in South Africa, because there was no effective control at the seat of war. It was imperative that there should be a General Nursing Superintendent in charge of a central office at the seat of war, and that there should also be District Superintendents, in addition to Sisters and orderlies. She strongly advocated the formation of a Nursing Department at the War Office, which would be responsible for the organization of the Regular and Reserve Nursing Services.

Miss Huxley suggested that the Government should pay a retaining fee to the principal general hospitals for a supply of reliable Sisters in time of war.

Lord Raglan stated, in reply, that he would lay the Report before the Secretary of State for War, and expressed himself as extremely interested in the various suggestions made by the Matrons.

## Our Prize Puzzles.

We have pleasure in announcing that Nurse Shipley, of the North Ormesby Hospital, Middlesborough, has won the Guinea Prize for March. The right answers are:—

- No. 1. Perchloride (P.E.R.-claw-ride).
- No. 2. Brandy (B-ran-D. Query—why).
- No. 3. Vaseline (Vase-e-line).
- No. 4. Boracic (Boar-ass-sick).

The following are the correct replies received:—  
Miss J. T. Jesper, Nurses' Home, Liverpool.  
Miss Jessie C. Savile, Fountain Fever Hospital.  
Miss A. E. Wingate, Teviot Terrace, Glasgow.  
Miss Flora E. Gardner, Shelsby Beauchamp.  
Miss Ada Jubb, Holderness Road, Hull.  
Miss Irwin, Colville Terrace, London, W.

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