

ways promote the comfort and safety of their wounded comrades, for whom very likely no other aid would at the time be available.

Drill with stretchers and ambulance lifts should not be forgotten; and the nursing staff, when their ship is "prepared for battle," should have an opportunity of preparing, as completely as possible, the alternative operating rooms. They should also be constantly exercised in removing and storing the operating room fittings, and afterwards in fitting up some part of the ship with them, special regard being paid to the rapidity of the latter evolution.

### Appointments.

#### MATRON.

Miss Annie Tanner has been appointed Matron of the Almondsbury Memorial Hospital, Bristol. She was trained and certificated at the Royal Infirmary, Bradford, where she was gold medallist of her year. She subsequently held the positions of Charge Nurse at the Rochdale Infirmary, and Sister at the General Hospital, Wolverhampton.

#### ASSISTANT MATRON.

Miss Alice Sanderson has been appointed Assistant Matron at the British Lying In Hospital, Endell Street. She was trained at St. Thomas' Hospital, and has held the position of Sister at the Hospital for Women and Children, Waterloo Bridge Road. She holds the diploma of the London Obstetrical Society.

#### SISTER.

Miss Margaret Farrow has been appointed Sister at the Government Hospital, Gibraltar. She was trained and certificated at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan, and has had experience of private nursing. For the last twelve months she has held the position of Staff Nurse at the Rawcliffe Hospital, Chorley.

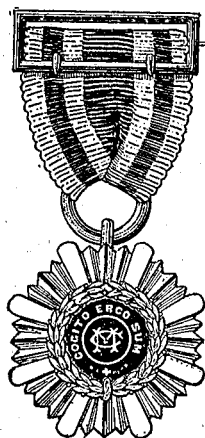
Miss Julia Armstrong has been appointed Sister of Medical Wards at the Royal Infirmary, Dumfries. She was trained at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow.

#### DISTRICT NURSE.

Miss Gertrude Dunn, sister to the late Superintendent of Queen's Nursing in Ireland, has been appointed Queen's Nurse in connection with the Kenilworth District Nursing Association. She was trained as a Nightingale Probationer at St. Thomas' Hospital, after which she did district nursing for two years in London. She subsequently worked at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, and at the Edinburgh City Fever Hospital, where she held the posts of Night Superintendent and Assistant Matron. In 1897 she became a Queen's Nurse, and has worked in this capacity in both England and Ireland, her last post being at Bushmills, County Antrim.

### The Matrons' Council.

#### COGITO ERGO SUM.



Members of the Matrons' Council will be interested to learn that they owe their motto, "*cogito ergo sum*" to René Descartes, a celebrated French philosopher, who, finding the first certainty in self consciousness—*cogito*—attempted to build upon it a system capable of demonstration. He was born at La Haye, in Touraine, and on leaving school removed to Paris in order to devote himself to the study of mathematics.

In 1616 he entered the army of the Prince of Orange, and, while serving in the garrison at Breda, solved a difficult mathematical problem which had been posted in the public streets. He subsequently served also in the army of the Duke of Bavaria, but gave up military life to devote himself entirely to the study of science and philosophy. He visited the principal countries of Europe, and in 1629 settled at Amsterdam, but removed subsequently to other towns in Holland so as to obtain greater privacy. During the course of twenty years, he obtained a great reputation as a philosopher, but had to encounter much violent opposition, his works were condemned, he was prohibited from public teaching, and even his life was in danger. So it has ever been with original thinkers. In our own times, Frederic Denison Maurice was compelled to give up his Professorial chair at Cambridge, and Charles Kingsley was viewed with suspicion by all schools of thought. In ancient days we have the conspicuous instance of Socrates, who drained to the dregs the cup of hemlock offered to him by his contemporaries in return for his noble life, and his high moral teaching, which roused men to reflection and led them to self knowledge.

Descartes died at Stockholm in 1650, having gone to Sweden at the invitation of Queen Christina.

It is Emerson who says that the hardest task in the world is to think. "I would put myself," he says, "in the attitude to look in the eye an abstract truth, and I cannot. I blench and withdraw on this side and on that. I seem to know what he meant who said, No man can see God face to face and live." Yet think we must if we are to live to any purpose.

*Cogito ergo sum.* (I think—therefore I am).

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