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EDITED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK.

No. 705.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1901.

VOL. XXVII.

Editorial.

THE ARMY NURSING SERVICE.

ONCE more, it falls to our lot to experience the profound satisfaction of finding opinions, which we have expressed for years past, accepted by the Government of this country, and reforms of vital public importance, which we have advocated in season and out of season, finally adopted and carried into effect. The Committee appointed by the Secretary of State to consider the re-organisation of the Army Nursing Service issued its Report last Saturday, and in another column we have the pleasure of publishing the full text of the document, so far as it relates to the Nursing Service. The Committee's Report with regard to the re-organisation of the Medical Department is beyond our province, and therefore we would only say that we welcome the reforms therein advised, inasmuch as they tend to remove or alleviate grievances concerning which the Royal Army Medical Corps has had the gravest ground of complaint; and that we congratulate the medical profession upon obtaining at last the attention which the magnificent services rendered to the army and the nation by this Corps have amply deserved.

Our readers will remember that the NURSING RECORD was the first journal to point out the urgent need for reforms in the Nursing Services both of the Army and the Navy, and that the matter has occupied space in our columns constantly for the last ten years. In 1889, we commenced our campaign in this matter, and at the request of the then Director-General handed him a memorandum showing that the small number of Army Sisters then on the regular staff was even insufficient in time of peace, and must become totally inadequate under the emergencies of war. We suggested, and drafted a scheme for, the formation of a Nursing Reserve, so that, on the outbreak of war, the services of such a corps might be immediately available. In 1892, as a practical beginning, we proposed and organised a staff of Nurses available in case Cholera, which was then expected, made its appearance in this country. And, after advocating for years in the press, and through the medium of the Royal British Nurses' Association, the formation of a Nursing Reserve, we had the satisfaction of seeing that body formed by the War Office in 1897. Unfortunately, the organisation was entrusted to persons with

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