

The Nursing Service.**COMMITTEE'S REPORT.**

The report of the committee on the reorganisation of the Army and Indian Nursing Service is as follows:

(1) There shall be one military nursing service for his Majesty's Army in the United Kingdom, India, and the Colonies, to be designated "Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service" (Q.A.I.M.N.S.). In this service shall be amalgamated the existing Army Nursing Service and the Indian Nursing Service; (2) her Majesty Queen Alexandra shall be requested graciously to assume the Presidency of this Service; (3) the Nursing Service shall be under the immediate control of her Majesty Queen Alexandra as President, and of a Nursing Board constituted as follows:

President, her Majesty Queen Alexandra; chairman, the Director-General Army Medical Service, or an officer nominated by him; two members of the Advisory Board, Army Medical Service, of whom one shall be a civilian; the Matron-in-Chief Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, three matrons of large civil hospitals with medical schools, one representative of the India Office to be appointed by the Secretary of State for India, two members to be nominated by her Majesty the president, and holding office for three years.

(4) Upon this Nursing Board the civil members of the Advisory Board, Army Medical Service, and the matrons of civil hospitals shall be appointed by the Crown, on the advice of the Secretary of State, and shall hold office for a period of three years, renewable on expiration of the term of appointment. A matron of a civil hospital shall receive an honorarium of £26 5s. per annum while serving on the board. (5) The Nursing Board, of which three shall form a quorum, shall usually meet at fortnightly intervals. The minutes of the proceedings of the Nursing Board shall be laid by the Matron-in-Chief before the Advisory Board. It shall be in the power of the Advisory Board to refer back any point to the Nursing Board for reconsideration, and in case of a divergence of opinion between the boards, the matter in question shall be referred to the Secretary of State.

FUNCTIONS OF THE NURSING BOARD.

(6) Subject to the general control of the Advisory Board the Nursing Board shall be responsible for: (1) Advising the Secretary of State on the strength of the nursing staff of various grades requisite in each military hospital (including the hospitals for women and children attached to military stations), having regard to the character of the cases admitted, and subject to the proviso that as

a general rule hospitals containing fewer than a hundred beds will not be provided with a regular female nursing staff *vide* paragraph 14); (2) defining the conditions under which nurses may enter the service, the terms of their appointment, and the duties to be performed in the several grades of the Nursing Service; (3) dealing with all questions relating to the uniform and clothing allowance of the Nursing Service; (4) receiving and considering reports from Matron-in-Chief and the matrons of the various hospitals; (5) recommending to the Commander-in-Chief for the approval of the Secretary of State, the appointment, retention, promotion, retirement, dismissal, and distribution of the members of the Nursing Service; (6) arranging for the selection and engagement of additional nurses, the organisation of the requisite nursing staff, and the appointment of principal matrons in case of war or epidemic; (7) advising the Secretary of State on the formation of the Nursing Reserve of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service; (8) arranging for the periodical inspection of military hospitals as regards nursing efficiency; (9) submitting to the Secretary of State, through the Advisory Board, a scheme for the organisation and development in India of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, which shall allow for adequate local control, subject to the general authority of the Nursing Board. (7) Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service shall consist of (1) a Matron-in-Chief and principal matrons, (2) matrons, (3) sisters, (4) nurses. (8) All matrons, sisters, and nurses of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service shall be entitled to wear an appropriate badge which, by special permission only of her Majesty, the President, may be retained by the wearer after leaving the Service.

THE MATRON-IN-CHIEF.

(9) The Matron-in-Chief shall have a seat on the Advisory Board, acting as a member of the board whenever matters concerning the nursing service are under discussion, and in her absence a principal matron shall take her duties. (10) The Matron-in-Chief shall be the medium of communication between the Director-General and the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, in all matters connected with that Service. (11) The Matron-in-Chief shall be responsible for keeping the Service records and confidential reports from the matrons of the various hospitals regarding the character, conduct, and efficiency of the sisters and nurses under their control. (12) The Matron-in-Chief shall keep herself acquainted with the administration of the nursing service in the various military hospitals. (13) She shall submit to the Nursing Board recommendations for

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