

Army Nursing Notes.

We gather from correspondents that some confusion appears to have arisen in their minds in relation to the new Imperial Army Nursing Service.

Nothing at present is absolutely settled. The steps taken towards reform are as follows. Convinced, no doubt, by preponderating evidence of the inefficiency of the existing system of the Army Medical Department, which includes the Nursing, the Secretary of State for War appointed a Committee to consider reorganization.

This Committee has issued a Report of a Scheme for the reorganization of the Army Medical Service, suggesting the formation of an Advisory Board and a Nursing Board.

CONSTITUTION OF ADVISORY BOARD.

The Director-General A.M.S. Chairman.

The Deputy Director-General A.M.S. Vice-Chairman.

One Officer, Royal Army Medical Corps, with special knowledge of Sanitation.

One Officer, Royal Army Medical Corps, with special knowledge of Tropical Diseases.

Two Civilian Physicians appointed by the Crown on the recommendation of the Secretary of State.

One Representative of the War Office appointed by the Secretary of State.

One Representative of the India Office appointed by the Secretary of State for India.

The Matron-in-Chief, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (for Nursing Service only).

DUTIES IN REFERENCE TO NURSING.

10. The Board shall also draw up a list of hospital and nurse training schools recognized for the purposes of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

16. The Board shall exercise a general control over the Nursing Service, and in consultation with the Nursing Board shall submit to the Secretary of State a scheme to develop the training of orderlies as attendants upon the sick and wounded.

The whole scheme for the reorganization of the Army and Indian Nursing Service appeared in our issue of October 5th, it provided for requesting Her Majesty Queen Alexandra to assume the Presidency of the Service.

CONSTITUTION OF THE NURSING BOARD.

President—Her Majesty Queen Alexandra.

Chairman—The Director-General, A.M.S., 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.

As the Report is signed by the Right Hon. St. John Brodrick, Secretary of State for War, the next step is to apply for a Royal Warrant, to be signed by the King, in which the details of the organization will be embodied, and to give it legal force.

The part played by this journal in voicing the need of Army Nursing Reform, and the personal interest we have taken in formulating the lines upon which such reforms should take place, is well known. That the new scheme embodies the majority of our just demands only proves how necessary it is that each profession should have a fearless organ in the press to voice its needs; it may take years to get a hearing, but with patience and persistency much can be accomplished; therefore once convinced that a certain thing is right, we nurses must ask for it, and work for it in season and out of season. Details may not be carried out at first in quite the best way. The persons chosen to carry them out are seldom those who have justly earned the right to do so, but in the *end the thing gets done*, and that is the triumph of all reformers.

Lord and Lady Roberts travelled down to Welbeck Abbey on Wednesday to take part in an interesting ceremony of awarding the medals to the Portland Hospital Staff. The Duchess of Portland gave the war medals to the nursing sisters, amongst whom was Miss Edith Pretty, who is also the fortunate recipient of the Royal Red Cross. On Thursday Lord Roberts opened the Nottingham Children's Hospital Bazaar.

The members of the Scottish National Red Cross Hospital staff, who have returned from South Africa, were presented with war medals by the Duchess of Montrose and General Sir Archibald Hunter in the Queen's Rooms, Glasgow, recently. After the ceremony General Hunter said it was generally thought at the front, if one had to go into hospital, that the place to make for was the Scottish Red Cross Hospital at Kroonstad. The work of healing wounds was much more serious than that of giving wounds, and he could testify to the great care that had been given by the nurses and doctors to their patients. He hoped that the good work of the society would not be allowed to stop, and wished the members of the staff long life and prosperity.

The place of honour at the exhibition of the London Sketch Club was given to General Baden-Powell's design for a nurse's uniform for his regiment of Constabulary in South Africa. The costume was eminently workmanlike, consisting of a dove-grey skirt much shorter than that usually worn by nurses. A shoulder cape in green, bound with a line of yellow, and a narrow green belt completed the dress. A Red Cross badge was on the left arm. The hat was grey, and of a C.I.V. shape. The boots were very neat, and made of soft brown leather. Bonnet, veil, and cloak, and long flopping skirts were discarded at one fell swoop.

At a general meeting of the Committees of the Dutch Red Cross Society, held at the Hague, it was recommended that the Central Committee should apply to the International Central Bureau of the Red Cross Society at Geneva, asking it to interfere in favour of the release of members of the ambulance now prisoners in Ceylon. Diplomas of honour were presented to the doctors attendants and nurses who serve with the ambulance.

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