

Nursing Echoes.

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As Sisters with worthy experience of Army Nursing are now coming home from South Africa, we have made a point of consulting some of them on various contested questions.

"How about the Discipline?" we asked.

"Discipline, as a well trained nurse understands it, is impossible," is the gist

of the replies, "because the power of a Superintendent Sister is strictly limited under military law, the authority over the nurses filtering through the Army Medical Officer, to the civil military authorities. What is needed are experienced and responsible Matrons at the head of each Divisional Hospital—the Army Nursing Sisters have never had much authority, and many of them are quite incapable of enforcing discipline amongst the nurses who have been sent out, many of them quite unsuited both by temperament and previous experience to act as military nurses. It is sad but true that numbers of nurses sent out have quite lost their heads when placed in positions where good common sense was indispensable. These women are known as 'frivolous,' and have brought no end of discredit upon the nursing profession as a whole. Gadding, junketing, riding, driving, racing, dancing, picnicing, 'a high old time,' is the unblushing aim of the 'frivolous,' and until she is 'sent down' she has managed to have it. At the front it is realised that the 'frivolous' has spurred on the War Office to take drastic measures in formulating the new Army Nursing Scheme, and she detests its wise provisions. It is doubtful, however, if any regulations can be formulated which will control the flirtatious 'frivolous.' In South Africa she has been much in evidence, the society woman setting a most evil example in Cape Town at the beginning of the war."

We have before us facts which convince us that the above remarks are far from covering the whole sad truth. We are anxiously awaiting the selection by the War Office of the Matron in Chief for the New Army Nursing Service. A strong woman, and moreover a woman of the world alone can cope with the situation—it is to be hoped that a "plastic mediocrity" will not be tolerated by the Secretary of State for

War. The reorganisation of the Army Nursing Service is a question of national importance, and cannot be accomplished in kid gloves. We have got beyond the date of the "dear sweet saint." Army nurses want a woman with gumption as their Chief.

The thirteenth Annual Report of the Scottish Branch of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses shows that the Institute has an excellent record of work for the year, though we regret that the expenditure is not covered by the income. So good a work should not be hampered by lack of funds. We are glad to note that the same officers still continue at their posts, Miss Jane Wade, as Superintendent at the District Training, and District Nurses' Home in Edinburgh, where her work has been so valuable in the past, and Miss Guthrie Wright as Hon. Secretary.

There are now 224 Queen's Nurses working in Scotland, under 144 Affiliated Branches. During the year 22 nurses resigned, 31 who had received hospital training entered the Home for district training of whom 29 were found suitable, and five nurses received maternity training during the year. Various lectures were also given to the nurses, two courses on Hygiene, two on Fevers and Diets, one on Obstetrics, three courses of Demonstrations and Practical Lessons in Sick Cookery by a Staff Teacher from the Edinburgh School of Cookery and Domestic Economy, and two courses by Miss Wade on District Nursing. Miss Wade and the Assistant Inspector, Miss Cooper, have also made 162 inspections of single nurses and small homes, so that the year has been a busy one, and the work well organised.

Amongst those recently invested by the King at St. James's Palace with the Order of the Royal Red Cross was Sister Edith M'Call Anderson, of Dundee Royal Infirmary. Sister Anderson received her training partly in the Children's Hospital, Edinburgh, but mainly in the wards of Dundee Royal Infirmary. After the disasters at Magersfontein, Stormberg, and Colenso, she joined the Army Nursing Reserve. She arrived at the Cape shortly after Kimberley was relieved, and went on with Lord Roberts to Bloemfontein, where she spent most of her time, and where she participated in the hard work incident to the serious epidemic of enteric that occasioned such an outcry on the part of Mr. Burdett-Coutts and others. Soon after her return to this country she was appointed sister in charge of Mr. Greig's ward in Dundee Infirmary, where she has since remained. For her share in the campaign she received the South

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