

such conditions? Little wonder if we get bed-sores. Of course, with a good orderly and patients able and willing to help, as in one of my huts, all goes fairly well; but even so, the staff is quite inadequate. We ought to have one nursing sister and four orderlies or nurses on for each hut, and then all would be well, even allowing for an occasional night in the cells, which, I suppose, is a necessity. But "No," replied Red-tape last October, when the Matron of Guy's wrote and offered the services of half the Guy's nurses. "It is not anticipated that the services of any nurses, other than those of the Army Nursing Service or Army Nursing Service Reserve will, under any circumstances, be required." In a footnote Mr. Fremantle explains: "This was logically true throughout, for the nurses hastily engaged after these letters appeared in print were all impressed into the paper 'Reserve.'" He continues: "The whole system is bad, and is primarily due, not to the exigencies of war, but to the exigencies of a slowly-grown, iron-bound, almost mathematical system, clogged with petty trivialities, and hampered at every turn by an excess of officials, official returns, and all the paraphernalia of red tape."

Later we read "Four Canadian Nursing Sisters came out the other day with the Canadian contingent of a thousand, and met, of course, with a wildly enthusiastic reception. They have come to work in No. 1, and one of them up to the mark and keen is looking after my hut 3. The Sister now looking after my other huts, 2 and 7, is a first-rate nurse, who comes from the Royal Free, and has had to join the Army Nursing Reserve—a paper made affair—before coming out here. She is really, therefore, a civilian nurse, and coming fresh to the work, she works like a horse, and the men love her. It is impossible not to feel a certain contrast with the Army nurse of some years' service, who was with me in these huts until the other day—a good nurse, mind you, as to knowledge and energy, but hard, hard as a flint-stone, and with a contralto voice to match, and a devil-may-care spirit of independence, which seems to be fostered by the army life. It is a rough life for these army nurses, poor souls, little wonder if they sometimes reflect a bit of the barrack-room in their manner." Another reference to the nursing is contained in the following quotation: "Spent the morning amputating a finger and dressing Stewart's thigh under chloroform. Poor fellow, he goes steadily down hill, and, through the absence of water-beds and the defective nursing, the inevitable bedsores are making their appearance. Fortunately he grows proportionately indifferent to pain, and there is no reason to stint the morphia."

Another comment on the "whole system of female nursing in the Army is that it appears to have been clumsily grafted on to the old system of nursing by orderlies, purely out of deference to public opinion and Miss Florence Nightingale. The graft has never taken root. The Nursing-sisters, as they are called, have no fixed position in the service. The orderlies often refuse to recognize their authority."

PARASITES.

The following description of the hospital building (No. 1, Wynberg), appears to leave something to be desired:—"As Orderly Medical Officer yesterday, had to give some attention to some of the officer-patients who are very pleasant to talk to, although their doctors

stigmatise them in comparison with the N.C.O.'s and men as horribly fussy, several of them calling out incessantly day and night for morphia, when they are in very little pain. The chief trouble is in-omnia, which again is partly due to their own temperament, but partly to the parasites which frequent these walls. The Surgeon-General, who, of course, wishes them to be made as comfortable as possible, gave drastic orders to the effect that each of the six legs of each bed should stand in a (potted meat or cigarette) tin filled with kerosene to repel the enemy and invader. But as the enemy generally descends like the paralytic from the roof, and inasmuch as kerosene is highly dangerous in the neighbourhood of smokers, the orders have not been carried out with the usual military despatch."

LESSONS OF THE WAR.

Amongst the many lessons to be learnt from the war the following are of special interest:—

THE NURSING SERVICE.

"There are, fortunately, many points that can at once be improved. The nursing system is one of these. Nursing in the army has hitherto been entirely carried out by male nurses or orderlies—the Nursing Sisters, although their place is not precisely defined, being really superintendents of nursing, in a position comparable to that of Night Sisters at a London Hospital. There is general consent that in future, in operations on a large scale, the nursing at the General and Stationary Hospitals should be almost entirely carried out by general nurses; while it would be a good thing if the large civil hospitals at home could see their way to training and employing a small staff of male nurses, for instance, in the accident wards, who might be used as a reserve for the rougher nursing work. These, again, should be entirely distinct from the men who scrub the floors, do stretcher work, and supply the unskilled labour of medical units both at the front and base. Sarah Gamp, in male attire, should no longer be allowed to exist."

ORDERLIES.

It is interesting to note Mr. Fremantle's reiterated opinion of the "comparatively small need of male nurses," and that "the nursing of bedded hospitals even at advanced bases should be done by women nurses, a good supply of whom may be obtained at any time from civil life. They need not, therefore, belong to any permanent Nursing Service or Reserve but may be engaged as required."

MOBILISATION.

As to mobilisation. Mr. Fremantle suggests that the civil hospitals would each be ready to fit out a General Hospital. "Mr. Makins, let us say, Mr. Bowlby, Mr. Fripp, have each been paid a retaining fee to be prepared to mobilise the staff of a General Hospital at three week's notice. They have a list of doctors, not necessarily still resident at the hospitals, from whom a medical staff is soon raised. The matrons of their hospitals have similar lists of nurses, amongst whom they find no difficulty in selecting a good staff. Half-a-dozen trained orderlies are secured, either from their own hospitals—or from the garrison hospitals to which they are attached." Clerks, military officers, one or two head orderlies and dispensers and the personnel is completed with the exception of the rank and file, supplied from the regiments on arrival at their destination.

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