

Association, and all schools were urged to form Alumnae Associations. The toasts were most tastefully set out on the menu card, with apt quotations for each. "The King"—"He's a King, a true right King, that dares do aught save wrong"—was responded to by singing the National Anthem; followed by "Our Country"—"That man is the best Cosmopolite who loves his native country best. He who loves not his country can love nothing"—Miss Watson, of Hillcrest Convalescent Home, responding. The toast of "Superintendents of Training Schools" was responded to by Miss Snively, the beloved Hon. President, for whom had been chosen the quotations "I have laboured with no little study that my teaching and the strong course of my authority may go one way," and "Knows, with just reins and gentle hand to guide." For "Sister Institutions" the wise saying "Hearts and hands in one great cause" sounded the happy note of unity and loving-kindness, and amongst others Dr. Helen Macmurchy made a most able speech on "The Nurse of the Future" quoting:—

"Happy in this, she is not yet so old but she may learn;
Happier than this, she is not bred so dull but she can learn;
Happiest of all is, that her gentle spirit commits itself to yours to be directed."

"Married Graduates," of whom there are not a few, were reminded from Kipling, "They say marriage is like cholera—wonder who will be the next victim." "The Medical Profession" and "The Press" came in for many compliments and expressions of gratitude; a very pleasant and inspiring reunion being brought to a close by singing "Auld Lang Syne."

State Registration at St. Andrew's House.

Miss Edith Debenham is arranging for a meeting at St. Andrew's House on the evening of December 8th, at which the question of State Registration of Nurses will be presented and discussed. Miss Debenham has kindly placed a limited number of invitations at the disposal of the Hon. Secretary of the Society for State Registration of Nurses, who will be pleased to forward them to nurses and others who desire information on the subject. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Isla Stewart, and others will present the case for Registration, and it is hoped there will be an interesting debate. Invitations can be procured from Miss Edith Debenham, St. Andrew's House, Mortimer Street, W., or from Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.

The New Regulations of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

We have already published in full the new regulations of the Military Nursing Service, and in accordance with our announcement we now propose to discuss some of their most salient features.

THE MATRON-IN-CHIEF.

The most drastic reform is unquestionably the formation of a Nursing Department, supervised by a Matron-in-Chief. The Army Nursing Service, now dissolved, was under the control of the Director-General of the Army Medical Department. There was no administrative department dealing specially with Army nursing organisation. The appointment, therefore, of a Matron-in-Chief as an administrative officer, and of a Nursing Board to deal with the control of the Service, is of far-reaching and paramount importance, and we congratulate the War Office on being the first Government Department to realise the necessity for the formation of such a Department. It is a step which all Government Offices dealing with the nursing of the sick will certainly sooner or later be obliged to take.

In this connection we may point out that the memorandum presented in April of last year by a deputation from the Matrons' Council to the Secretary of State for War incorporated the suggestion of "the need of the formation of a Nursing Department in affiliation with the Medical Department at the War Office, superintended by a fully-trained and experienced administrative nursing officer." The duties they suggested in connection with this office were practically those assigned to it.

GRADES.

The grades in the Military Nursing Service are:—

1. A Matron-in-Chief, who has the general supervision and control of the Service.

2. Principal Matrons.

3. Matrons. The duties of these officers are much the same as those of the Matron of a civil hospital. The Matron is required to keep a register in connection with her department, which will be inspected by the Matron-in-Chief at home, and by the Principal Medical Officer in charge abroad.

The Matrons' Council recommended the appointment in each military hospital of a Head Sister or Matron, who should have full authority over the female nursing staff, and be directly responsible to the Nursing Department for their discipline and efficiency.

4. Sisters. The Sisters are under the immediate supervision of the Matron, and directly responsible to her in all matters relating to conduct and discipline. They are responsible to the officers in charge for carrying out their orders relative to the treatment of the sick. They are

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)