

year of service in excess of ten, up to a maximum of 70 per cent. of such pay.

Speaking on broad lines, we think it would have been well if the salaries of the Matron-in-Chief, Sisters, and Staff Nurses had been 25 per cent. higher. That of the Matron-in-Chief does not compare favourably with the salary and emoluments of the Matrons of our largest London hospitals. Taking into consideration the onerous and responsible nature of her work, we should have liked to see her salary fixed at £500 a year. It is time that the expert work of professional women was rated at its true value.

Under the Army Nursing Service the Nursing Sisters received £30, rising by £2 annually to £50. The recommendation of the Matrons' Council was that in order to obtain the services of the most efficient nurses the salaries of Senior Sisters should be raised, and more liberal pensions be given. It is regrettable that, in arranging the scale of salaries in the new Service, the very inadequate rate of pay in our civil hospitals has evidently been taken as a standard.

RETIRING AGE.

The retiring age in the Army Nursing Service was fixed at sixty. In Q.A.I.M.N.S. the age for compulsory retirement is fixed at fifty-five, which was recommended by the Matrons' Council.

THE IMPERIAL ASPECT.

It will be remembered that the Report of the Committee on the Reorganisation of the Army Medical and Nursing Services embodied the recommendation, "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,'" and that in the constitution of the Nursing Board, as suggested by the same Committee, a seat is apportioned to a "representative of the India Office to be appointed by the Secretary of State for India." A seat was also apportioned to a representative of the India Office, to be named later, under the Royal Warrant constituting the Nursing Board.

So far this part of the scheme apparently remains in abeyance. No representative of the India Office has, as yet, been appointed on the Nursing Board of Q.A.I.M.N.S., nor has its Imperial character been accentuated so far in any way.

In our view, the best method of attracting well-trained Colonial nurses, and of giving them a definite position in the Imperial Nursing Service, would be to give them the same autonomy as is accorded in political matters, and to appoint a Nursing Board in each Colony, through whom applications should be made to the Central Nursing Board, and whose endorsements and recommendations should be required in every instance before an application is entertained. If the new Service is to be Imperial in fact as well as in name it is necessary that a certain proportion

of posts should be apportioned to Colonial-trained nurses.

Presumably the Matrons of civil hospitals having seats on the Board are to be two, not three, as recommended by the Reorganisation Committee.

It will be remembered that the Matrons' Council advised that the Army Nursing Service Reserve should be organised and directly controlled, as part of the Army Nursing Department, at the War Office. This has now been done. Neither do the members of the Reserve or of the Army Nursing Service proper become members of the Q.A.I.M.N.S. as a matter of course. They must in every instance be recommended for appointment by the Nursing Board. This is as it should be.

The American Nursing World.

We learn that great gratification has naturally resulted in the American Army Nurse Corps, from the fact that the services of one of their number serving in the Philippines has been recognised in General Orders after the manner of recognition of specially meritorious services on the part of a soldier:—

HEADQUARTERS DIVISION OF THE PHILIPPINES.

The following instance of bravery and devotion to duty is published to the Division:—Nurse Alice Kemmer, Army Nurse Corps, having been granted leave of absence, voluntarily relinquished the same and took upon herself the care of two small-pox patients in an isolation hospital connected with the First Reserve Hospital in this city; one of the patients was the wife of an officer, the other an enlisted man. Miss Kemmer had never had the disease, nevertheless she fearlessly entered upon her self-imposed task, and throughout the months of April and May, 1902, devoted herself to the care of the patients, living in the room with the officer's wife, the enlisted man being in an adjoining room. With never more than two hours' sleep at a time, in intensely hot weather, the nurse attended her patients day and night and saved their lives.

Alice Kemmer was employed as contract nurse August 22nd, 1898, and as contract nurse and in the Army Nurse Corps served at Chickamauga and Savannah, Georgia; Jacksonville, Florida; Havana, Cuba; San Francisco, California; Tien-tsin and Peking, China; and in the Philippine Islands. She has been in the service over three years, more than two years of which has been on foreign duty; her efficiency and attention to duty have been marked.

The Division Commander takes pleasure in calling attention to and commending such bravery and conscientious performance of duty, and extends to Nurse Alice Kemmer, Army Nurse Corps, his sincere appreciation of her noble conduct.

By command of Major-General Chaffee,
H. O. S. HEISTAND (Adjutant General).

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