

many, I cite that of a not-over-strong nurse from New Orleans, who, with apparently no injury to herself, sat up all night for six weeks—sleeping very little during the day—with an extremely ill child-patient at Las Animas. They did not resort to stimulants when worn out. There was very little sickness among them, considering the amount of work, loss of sleep, anxiety, mosquitoes, and hot weather to which they were subjected. I found them truthful, temperate, clean, orderly, loyal, and obedient. Their heart being in their work, they were cheerful and contented, getting along well with one another; especially when they had plenty of work to do. The effect of their presence was excellent upon the morale not only of the patients, but of all around them, antidotal to nostalgia and discouragement. They were greatly preferred by the patients over any other kind of nurses. They proved a veritable blessing to the overworked medical officers, saving them much time, relieving them of much anxiety, and preventing their being turned out unnecessarily at night.

They took deep interest in their dangerously ill patients and showed remarkable talent for keeping them from dying. At the close of my service at Military Hospital No. 1, we had gone for over a month without a death, although we had a number of bad cases, nearly all typhoid (at one time seventeen in one ward), some half-dozen of them extremely ill. I am confident that but for the trained nurses, several of these typhoids would have died during that month. I understand that they all recovered ultimately, except one or two who died in relapse. According to Mr. Burdett-Coutts, M.P., we learn from the English South African Hospital Commission that, in the late war with the Boers, during an epidemic of typhoid fever, the Volks Hospital was the only one at Bloemfontein provided with female nurses. There was no trained orderly in said hospital, and all the nursing in it was done by the Matron and a staff of eight female nurses. "It had to deal with the epidemic under the same conditions of pressure, climate, provisions, water, and other matters, as the rest of the hospitals around it." It received the same class of patients. "The general enteric mortality was 21 per cent. The same mortality in the Volks Hospital was 7.75. This is the best practical proof that could be given of the value of female nursing of sick and wounded soldiers.

I was surprised by the resourcefulness of the nurses. When our troops first landed at Mariano, near Havana, a detachment of them was turned loose in a field where practically nothing had been prepared for their accommodation—no tents, no anything. They "hustled around," took care of themselves, and stood the exposure quite as well as the same number of the stronger sex would have done. Major Gorgas, of Havana fame, informs me

that during the latter part of the Santiago Campaign in 1898, he commanded the large base hospital at Siboney, Cuba, immediately in the rear of our army. This hospital was necessarily a rough affair with practically no facilities for the care of any except the sick and wounded. In it he had about fifty women nurses, nearly all of them untrained; and about 500 male attendants, all soldiers. The fifty women did all the extra-diet cooking, and brought the wards to a greater state of efficiency, and did better nursing, than the men could possibly have done. He was surprised that these women kept in such good health, none of them being seriously ill, although for the first night or two they slept upon the ground, and, all the time, had the same kind of food, shelter, and bedding as the men.

(To be continued.)

Educational Matters.

VICTORIAN TRAINED NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The first examination under the auspices of the Victorian Trained Nurses' Association was conducted last month by the Conjoint Board of Examiners, which is constituted by the Senior Lecturer of the Melbourne, the Alfred, and the Children's Hospitals, the Matrons of the Melbourne and of the Alfred Hospitals. The examination comprises a written paper on medical and one on surgical nursing and an oral examination on each subject. Thirty-five candidates presented themselves, distributed as follows:—Melbourne Hospital, 12; Children's, 10; Alfred, 2; Austin, 2; Homœopathic, 1; Hamilton, 1, examined in Melbourne; Ballarat, 3; Nhill, 1, examined in sub-centre, Ballarat; Castlemaine, 3, examined in sub-centre, Bendigo. From Ballarat and Bendigo reports were received stating that the practical work of all the candidates reached the pass standard. The papers were all judged of sufficient merit to pass. At Ballarat the examination was conducted by the Senior Medical Lecturer and the Acting Matron (Sister M'Leely) of the Ballarat Hospital, with Miss Glover from the Council of the Association; at Bendigo by Mr. Walter Fowler, F.R.C.S., Miss Farquharson (of the Bendigo Hospital), and Miss M'Lean from the Council of the V.T.N.A. A neat special certificate, designed by the President of the Association (Dr. J. W. Springthorpe), will be presented to each candidate. Nurses Appleyard, Connolly, Cuthbert, Dobbin, Higgins, Lyon, Officer, Tangye, Tucker, Walter, Jones, Nicholson Thompson, Shepherd, Card, Watt, Renard, Stephens, Munro, Deasy, Gray, Stewart, Mann, Macdonald, Shoppee, Down, Stevenson, Hayes, Manley, Usher, Borwick, Elsworth, Ferguson, Watson, and Henderson are the names of the successful candidates.

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