

Miss E. Horton, 135, Somerville Drive, Mount Florida, Glasgow.

Miss Gertrude Austin, City Hospital, Edinburgh.

Miss E. Islip, 269, Regent Street, W.

Miss Clara Davis, Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

Miss Kate Hardy, Miners' Hospital, Marske-by-the-Sea, Yorks.

Miss J. Hair, Great Northern Hospital, Holloway, N.

Nurse B. Burrow, at Blatchwood, St. Albans, Herts.

Those competitors who have gone wrong have done so almost invariably over the fourth puzzle, "Garrould's Milo Cotton," "Downes Co.," "Graves' Costume," and frequently "Maltico" being some of the solutions sent in. No. 2 has also proved a poser to some competitors, "Bovinine" and "Wallis and Co.'s Specialties" being solutions offered.

The new set of Prize Puzzles will be found on page VIII. The rules remain the same.

## Medicine and Nursing in the South African War.

### THE ROYAL COMMISSION.

EVIDENCE OF COLONEL W. JOHNSTON,

Late Assistant Director of the Army Medical Service.

(Continued from page 349.)

Colonel W. Johnston said he was Assistant Director of the Army Medical Service in succession to Colonel Gubbins until May 31st, 1901. He had to do with the mobilisation of seven general hospitals, besides all the private hospitals, the Princess Christian hospital train, and other details. The only difficulty was to get thoroughly suitable officers and men, "because we had sent all our best officers and all our best men before. At the time," said the witness, "when the expedition first went out, it was never expected that more than an Army Corps would be required, and therefore we spread our butter too thickly; we put all our best men to the front, and so I had not such a good lot to select from as my predecessor had; we were just obliged to take anyone we could get."

When it was found that there were so few male nurses, female nurses were sent out in a larger proportion. They were obtained through the Army Nursing Service Reserve.

[N.B.—It must be remembered that the list of nurses who were enrolled as members of the Army Nursing Service Reserve was quickly exhausted. Subsequently those who offered for service in South African Military Hospitals, many of them holding responsible appointments in hospitals in this country, were, as it has been aptly expressed, "passed through a skeleton Reserve" before they were drafted to the seat of war.]

The difficulty in connection with the appointment of civil surgeons was that while they could be found in considerable numbers they could not replace the Royal Army Medical Corps officers either in charge of hospitals or bearer companies. A civilian could not take charge

of a military hospital, about the organisation of which he would know nothing, either as to discipline or the mode of procedure. In a military hospital the medical officer in charge is responsible not only for the treatment of the sick, but also for seeing that the men get their equipment, their clothes, their food, and everything else; he is also in disciplinary charge of the *personnel*.

The witness thought it unfair in estimating the members of the Royal Army Medical Corps to compare them with specialists in civilian practice. "The medical officer in the Army," he said, "is expected to be a Treves in operative surgery or an expert in some other branch of the very first class. I am quite certain that the Army medical officer is, as a rule, superior to the general practitioner, but what they compare the poor Army doctors with are the most specialised and experienced men."

The civil surgeons were sent out because there was a scarcity of Army surgeons. The witness thought this would always be a necessity, otherwise a big war could not be carried on. The country could never afford to have all the medical officers that would be necessary. It was a necessity to have civilians.

In regard to the supply of Nursing Sisters, Colonel Johnston said he anticipated no difficulty. He thought there would always be plenty.

(To be continued.)

## Items of Interest at the Women Workers' Conference.

Amongst the many subjects discussed at the Conference of the National Union of Women Workers at Cheltenham and Gloucester this week, at which Lady Battersea presided, was the "Scope and Effect on the Teaching Profession of the Registration of Teachers," on which subject Miss Ethel Hurlbatt, Principal of Bedford College, London, read a paper. At the present stage of organisation of nursing as a profession, it is of considerable interest to learn how the Registration, which they have recently gained, affects the large section of women workers who are occupied in teaching.

Other papers on a subject in which nurses have a close interest were those read by Miss Wilson, Member of the Central Midwives' Board, and Miss Alice Gregory on "The Training of Midwives and the Organisation of their Work in Rural Districts." A somewhat surprising statement made was that in one district, with a population of 7,000, there were seven qualified midwives, and over 700 who acted as such. Surely a mistaken statistic. What was to become of these women, was a question asked, if the new Midwives' Act were enforced by the County Councils? At any rate, they could scarcely be worse off than if dependent for a livelihood on the share of fees available in attendance on the section of the population of 7,000 likely to need their services.

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