

not only for the city in which they live, but the principal cities in the world.

Next, the milk supply, transportation, refrigeration, contamination, and simple tests for adulteration.

Next, the food supply, especially of meat, poultry, fish, fruit, and vegetables.

Last, quarantine, beginning with rooms and going on to houses, hospitals, neighbourhoods, towns, cities, States, countries, and ships.

All of these subjects have laws, national, State and municipal, which nurses should know something of.

The Jewish laws regarding food make a most interesting and valuable topic, beginning with Leviticus. Ignorance of them places a nurse to a great disadvantage in doing private duty in an orthodox Jewish household, and nurses doing district or settlement work can do so to much greater advantage with some knowledge of them, and especially if with that knowledge they have also been taught to respect the prejudices of the race.

The sum and substance then, it seems to me, is that we should teach more and better, and then put our principles upon a rational, intelligent working basis, never forgetting the Scriptural injunction about "faith without good works."

Medicine and Nursing in the South African War.

THE ROYAL COMMISSION.

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EVIDENCE OF SURGEON-GENERAL J. JAMESON, C.B., M.D.

Surgeon-General Jameson, late Director-General, in his evidence, said that the establishment of the Army Corps, as fixed by a Committee in 1888, was, exclusive of India, supposed to provide medical attendance for the colonies for two Army Corps and a cavalry division with some lines of communication. The understanding was that when that service for the field army had been provided our home hospitals would be left destitute of *personnel*. As regards non-commissioned officers and men, the number was fixed for a peace footing for the strength of the Army, but while the Army went on increasing the men did not increase in corresponding ratio. From 1888 to 1899 there was a great increase in the Army, and the hospitals increased very much.

The constant struggle to obtain an adequate establishment for the Royal Army Medical Corps was in progress for many years. In 1897-98 an increase was again asked for, and it was then stated that "every little expedition undertaken means that the non-commissioned officers and men of the corps have to be withdrawn from the hospitals at

home in order that the necessary hospital staffs may be furnished to the expeditionary force." An increase of fifty-five men was then sanctioned, but the Adjutant-General considered that wars are intended to be provided for by depleting our home hospitals and that the remedy for that was extra women nurses and active recruiting.

At meetings of the Army Board, the decision as to increase was, said Surgeon-General Jameson, always against him. They did not want to increase the Medical Corps.

When war broke out in 1899 the first idea was that one Army Corps would be sent out, and the first Army Corps was sent out complete in every detail. There were enough officers for a second Army Corps, but the Corps had to be formed. A demand was made for an additional number of R.A.M.C. men for South African base hospitals and stationary hospitals, therefore the officers and men intended for the second Army Corps to supply what was wanted, also the line of communications, were taken, and when men were wanted for the second Army Corps the Medical Department had to go into the highways and byways for them. The men of the R.A.M.C. were practically exhausted when the first Army Corps were sent out.

The average Army surgeon, said Surgeon-General Jameson, did not get much surgical experience; he did not think he himself performed a major operation till he went to the Franco-German War.

In regard to medical stores, the chief want of the Army Medical Department was a proper store-house. That was also a question of expense. The Department could not get a proper storehouse, though it had been frequently asked for. "At that time" (1896), said the witness, "we had to keep all our medicines in the cellars of the Herbert Hospital underground, which were damp. Of course, there were a great many perishable articles in medicines, and they became useless after a time. But, although, I think, on several occasions the necessity for better storage was put forward, it was not given to us. And there it was. The instruments were suffering, and the medicines were perishing, and the only thing I could do at the time, I did. I got all these perishable articles put into one of the wards of the hospital, and they are there up to this day in that ward—a dry place with wooden flooring; so that now the custody is good, but it is at the expense of the hospital—that is to say, there is one ward which we have not the use of."

The orderlies were taught their work by the nurses; they did all the hard nursing work. No female nurse was on duty at night, except in a large hospital. The advantage of having female nurses on night duty was that they were superior in social position, and they looked after the orderlies; it was "sort of guarantee."

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