

The nurses of the Army Nursing Service were remarkably good. The establishment was eighty-six altogether, but they were chosen from a long list of applicants.

The Army Nursing Service Reserve was formed on the supposition that in time of war the regular Sisters would be sent abroad, and therefore nurses would be wanted for the home hospitals. It was a civil institution. All these nurses wanted to go to the war, every one of them. The difficulty was to keep them at home.

In regard to the system of training orderlies, the witness said they had not the same training as nurses. A nurse must have had three years' training in a large hospital; an orderly was supposed to be efficient in a year. Neither did he have the same opportunities as the nurse in acquiring special knowledge. The orderlies failed also in comparison with the nurses in gentleness to the patient and kind sympathy. Naturally, a person in a superior social position, taking everything into consideration, must be a superior person.

In regard to giving medical officers military rank, the witness thought it desirable. They were working amongst soldiers, living amongst soldiers, and having command of soldiers. They had to command their own corps, and patients in hospital, to sit on courts-martial, and do everything that every other military officer had to do. If they were treated simply as medical men attached to the Army, Tommy Atkins would show them very little deference.

In regard to drugs, the witness said chiefly tabloids and capsules were sent out; very few things were sent in the old form. Of course, some things must be sent. "You will not," he said, "please the ordinary private soldier with the tabloid; he wants a dose of physic. You will not content him, I mean, with the tabloid. You have to study rather the character of your patient. Give him a good dose of black draught, and he will thank you a good deal; but give him a tabloid, and he will think 'a small thing of that kind is no use.'"

The Efficient Care of the Insane.

As we go to press we learn that Miss Susan H. Kerr, who has been for a year and a-half Assistant Matron at the Stirling District Asylum, Larbert, has been appointed Matron of the Wye House Private Asylum, Buxton. Miss Kerr was trained in general nursing at Charing Cross Hospital, and has held nursing appointments at the Royal Hospital, Portsmouth, and in Egypt. It is not surprising that the higher nursing officials at the Stirling Asylum should be so successful in obtaining important appointments, as has been noticeable recently, for by their experience they are exceptionally well qualified for such posts.

A Nursing Service for Bombay.*

Four years have elapsed since prominent attention was drawn to a most serious defect in the equipment of several of the noblest hospitals with which Bombay is endowed—the lack of any adequate provision for the skilled nursing of the sick. Indeed, in this matter Bombay, a city which is commonly closely responsive to the influence of the West, has been strangely laggard. As the splendid hospitals of which the city is so justly proud were built, these were furnished by Government with a medical staff which can challenge comparison with some of the best medical institutions in Europe; their upkeep was adequately provided for; but the idea that the best medical aid and most liberal *matériel* are insufficient without a thoroughly trained and strong nursing staff was exceedingly slow in gaining acceptance. We owe it largely to the public spirit of Mr. L. R. W. Forrest and those who worked with and after him that this question was thoroughly mastered, so far as the European General Hospital is concerned, and an excellent nursing cadre established both for hospital and private nursing. Although they are generous in their financial support, we are afraid the European community of Bombay do not always sufficiently appreciate the obligations they are under to the St. George's Hospital Nursing Association, nor realise the incalculable boon, in the peculiar conditions of Anglo-Indian life, of a constant supply of trained nurses. Unfortunately, Mr. Forrest found no immediate coadjutor to take up his work amongst the native hospitals. Lady Reay, it is true, during her residence in Bombay, struck by the most deleterious results of the lack of skilled nursing at the Jamshedji Jijibhai group of hospitals, raised a fund which produces some Rs. 400 a month for this purpose; but the income from this source, even when administered with extreme economy by the All Saints Sisters—who frequently drew upon their own slender resources to supply deficiencies—and the grant of half the actual cost of nursing contributed by the Government, sufficed to meet the charges of no more than half the requisite staff. The Goculdas Tejpal Hospital, which from its central situation is largely utilised for the reception of accident cases, was until quite recently entirely unprovided with skilled nurses.

During the past year, however, a great forward movement has been made, and we can now anticipate developments which with sustained energy will remove this serious blot upon the administration of medical relief in the city. The Honourable Mr. Justice and Mrs. Crowe have come to the relief of the Jamshedji Jijibhai group of hospitals, and with splendid energy have raised no less than a lakh and 20,000 rupees to improve the nursing arrangements.

* From *The Times of India*.

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