

much more bent on exacting salutes from everybody under them, and similar trifling matters of that kind, rather than with any keenness whatever as to scientific attainments."

As an instance of the red-tapeism of the R.A.M.C. administration, the witness gave the following instance:—"My present house surgeon at Guy's was out in the war in South Africa, and he was told that he was to attend to some typhoid patients in a tent, so of course he did attend to them. Three of these typhoid patients were very bad indeed, and he was told to sleep in the tent. He said to his superior officer: 'I need not sleep actually in the tent, need I? or I may sleep just outside with a string attached to my toe, so that if either of the patients wants me he can pull it and it will wake me up?' and it eventually ended in his being told that if he did not sleep actually in the tent he would be liable to be shot, which is ludicrous. The sequel is that the poor boy went down with enteric, at exactly the right incubation time, afterwards. There is too much of that kind of thing about it. There was an instance of a boy wanting to make a very good endeavour indeed, and being rather crushed in the bud, and getting out of the thing as soon as possible."

The witness said he would not like to give an opinion as to the capacity of the orderlies and men who acted as nurses, because he did not reside long in any base hospital except his own, which was staffed entirely by volunteer men of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, and other volunteer medical associations, who had to be trained on the spot, very largely by the aid of the nurses. When those men came out they had only learned on a dummy.

The witness advocated the establishment of Serious and Slight Departments in connection with military hospitals. Every hospital should be divided into a hospital proper and a convalescent camp. The system at the Imperial Yeomanry Hospital was not copied from any other scheme. It was his own idea. The witness added: "It was most amusing. I was told that it would be a complete wreck. I was solemnly advised by one gentleman, on the Headquarters Staff of the Director-General. His last piece of advice to me was: 'You are making an awful mistake about these nurses: they will all be tripping over each other's skirts; there will be nothing for them to do. Take my advice and lose them.'"

It was a very good thing for the Royal Army Medical Corps that the Boer war came, because they were basing all their ideas upon wars with blacks, in which, of course, nurses cannot go anywhere near the fighting. They hamper the military movements because they cannot be left behind. In the South African war no harm would have come to women nurses if captured by the enemy. That should have made all the difference in the hos-

pital arrangements. In regard to the book published by Lady Howe on the Yeomanry Hospitals, the witness said he had refused to have anything to do with its production. He did not think that it should be regarded and trusted as an authority upon the management of hospitals in the field. He knew it contained many misleading statements; he regarded it as a perpetuation in print of a great deal of the spirit that should never have been evoked at all in the last war, and that, one would have imagined, would at least have been excluded from having any weight in the management of a large hospital financed by public voluntary subscriptions. He knew, for a certainty, he added, "that a whole lot of the statistics are not right. . . They are simply what would be called, if it was a money matter, and was done in the City, 'cooked,' so as to make an impressive number of figures, and I know that a whole lot of statements as to services rendered and that kind of thing are simply and absolutely untrue. There is no other word to adequately describe some of the statements and many of the inferences led up to." He was asked to verify the statements, and would not.

The American Nursing World.

THE ARMY NURSE CORPS.

By the direction of the Secretary of War, General Orders (No. 54), issued from the War Department at Washington, November 16th, 1903, contain amendments to previous General Orders concerning the formation and maintenance of the Army Nurse Corps.

In connection with the appointment and discharge of nurses, the former Orders contained a clause providing that nurses might be discharged from the service at their own request, "supported by good and sufficient reasons, provided their services have been faithful and meritorious."

This has now been deleted, as it is the desire of the Surgeon-General to have the rules governing the Nurse Corps conform as closely as possible to the rules governing the other branches of the service. Moreover, during the five years' existence of the Army Nurse Corps there have been many instances where it was felt that the right given in the regulations to *request discharge* reacted disadvantageously to the best interests of the service—hence the change.

A new paragraph is inserted under which a nurse requesting discharge before the expiration of the three years stipulated in her appointment will ordinarily be required to refund to the Government the amount of her transportation and necessary expenses incurred in obeying her first order. A nurse discharged under this order will not be given orders to proceed to her home.

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