

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

The announcement that the Army Council has decided to grant the following increased rates of pay to members of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service will be received with general satisfaction in the nursing world:—

Matron-in-Chief, £300, rising by £10 annually to £350.

Principal Matrons, £175, rising by £10 annually to £205.

Matrons, £75, rising by £10 annually to £150.

Sisters, £50, rising by £5 annually to £65.

Nurses, £40, rising by £2 10s. annually to £45.

These ladies also receive board and washing allowances, and Matrons in Charge at the larger hospitals draw extra pay according to the magnitude of their charge.

The following appointments and changes of station have been made in the above Service:—

APPOINTMENTS.

TO BE MATRON.

Miss G. M. Richards, posted to Woolwich (temporarily).

STAFF NURSES.

To join at Cambridge Hospital.

Miss W. M. Jay, Miss F. M. MacGregor, Miss M. MacGregor.

CHANGES OF STATION.

MATRONS.

Miss A. L. Cox, Connaught Hospital, Aldershot to Shorncliffe; Miss M. C. Knox, R.R.C., Aldershot to Dover; Miss S. E. Oram, R.R.C., from Dover to the Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot; Miss G. M. Payne, R.R.C., Dover to Egypt; Miss H. W. Reid, Aldershot to South Africa; Miss E. A. Wilkinson, Woolwich to South Africa.

SISTERS.

Miss C. Anderson, Canterbury to South Africa; Miss A. FitzGerald, Woolwich to Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot; Miss M. E. Harper, R.R.C., Shorncliffe to South Africa; Miss E. C. Humphreys, Woolwich to Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot; Miss R. Osborne, to Aldershot; Miss M. Pedler, Woolwich to Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot; Miss L. A. Rideout, Woolwich to Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot; Miss H. Stuart, Netley to Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot; Miss M. M. Tunley, Caterham to Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot; Miss L. W. Tulloh, R.R.C., Alton to Canterbury; Miss M. Wright, Cork to South Africa.

STAFF NURSES.

Miss A. R. F. Auchmuty, Netley to Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot; Miss S. K. Bills, Netley to Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot; Miss C. Mackay, Gosport to Woolwich; Miss S. Smyth, South Africa to Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot; Miss C. G. Stronach, Fermoy to Woolwich; Miss A. L.

Walker, South Africa to Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot; Miss A. A. Wilson, Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, to Royal Arsenal, for temporary duty.

Some Experiences of a Private Nurse in the State of California, U.S.A.*

For a period of eighteen months I was kept almost constantly at work in San Francisco and in various parts of the State. Amongst letters to people in California I carried one from a leading Sydney surgeon to a colleague practising in San Francisco. Equipped with my certificates and testimonials I called upon this doctor, and by him was introduced to the proprietor of the Alpha Trained Nurses' Agency. The proprietor, after examining my credentials, obtained the addresses of three medical men in Sydney for whom I had lately worked, and while awaiting a reply to his inquiries placed me on his register as a "second-grade nurse," to receive 16 dols. a week. After nursing my first private patient, under certain conditions I received word from him that his inquiries concerning me had been satisfactorily answered and my account of myself confirmed, and that he would now enter me as a "graduate or first-grade nurse," to receive 25 dols. a week.

This agency is really a nursing bureau. The proprietor is also a "rentor" of sick-room appliances, &c. His list of nurses, male and female, is a long one. The male nurses are trained equally with the female, and get 30 dols. a week for ordinary cases. The system of this agency seems to work well. The nurses reside in different parts of the city and outlying districts, and are communicated with by telephone. Cards are provided by the office—an ordinary visiting card, printed with the fees payable weekly in the left corner at the top, and the telephone number in right-hand top corner. On arrival at a case this card is presented. When the case is completed the nurse reports at the office and pays commission—female, 6 per cent., or 3d. in 4s. 2d.; male, 8 per cent., or 4d. in 4s. 2d. Visiting nursing is done extensively from this office. The attendant charges so much each visit, payable at termination of duties. Each nurse collects his or her own fees but should any difficulty arise the proprietor will do so, charging extra commission.

I had two cases in a large private hospital, which is in reality an hotel, and, in fact, is called the "Hotel Waldeck," and is owned and managed by a Jewish doctor. Here the friends of the patient may engage rooms near the one occupied by the patient. The patients are all private, and may engage any doctor and bring a nurse or nurses from any hos-

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