

and if Mr. Holland imagines that women who apparently cannot form a consistent opinion on so important a question as State Registration of Nurses inspire respect in virtue of their position rather than by their qualities, we can assure him that he has made a vast mistake.

2. A nurse's certificate, says Mr. Holland, shows that she has passed through a recognised training-school just as well as the Register could do.

But what about the training-schools which are not recognised, but which continue to flood the country with women whose certificates in the eyes of the public rank as of equal value with those of the best schools?

3. Nurses who in past years have gained their certificates have seriously deteriorated, but a nurse once on the Register will always be on unless guilty of some gross misconduct.

What about these same certificates? The nurses who gained them still possess them, and can produce them at will as evidence of their capacity. How does Mr. Holland propose that those who are guilty of "gross misconduct" shall be dealt with except by a legally-constituted Central Board? Once a nurse is certificated and works independently there is no professional standard to which she must conform, no common rules of discipline to which she must submit. The statement that "it is by technical skill alone that a nurse is rendered valuable in cases of serious illness" is regarded by Mr. Holland as "a fallacy." Let us consider for a moment what would be the value to the public of a woman possessed only of charming "manner," tact, and amiability in cases of sudden serious hæmorrhage, heart failure, or accident. It will readily be seen that technical skill is absolutely indispensable.

"It is silly to write with a sneer," says Mr. Holland, that "the opposition comes from certain hospital committees, the employers of nurses, and from some Matrons. Who are for it?" We will tell him at once. The intelligent minority of well-educated and efficient nurses throughout the country, particularly those engaged in private work. It appears to them reasonable that some distinction should be made between those nurses who have honourably qualified themselves for the serious work of their profession and those women who have not done so.

Mr. Holland harps upon the eminence of the anti-Registration signatories. We do not wish to dispute their potency, but we own ourselves amazed to find any intelligent persons appending their names to so illogical and unconvincing a document as their Manifesto.

If the House of Commons is to be persuaded to reject the Nurses' Bill those opposed to Registration will be required to advance stronger arguments.

The American *Journal of Nursing* says:—

It is surprising to read that the Central Hospital Council, composed of representatives from the managing boards of the London hospitals, are uncompromisingly opposed to Registration, and have formulated a resolution to that effect, and have also declared their determination to fight it in Parliament. When we recall the practical and most effective support given to the American nurses' movement by hospital governors and managers we are really unable to understand the attitude of the London council, except by a deduction very unflattering to themselves. Why should they not be as liberal and progressive as the American hospital boards?

Why indeed?

### Australian Army Nursing Service.

The Principal Medical Officer of the military forces of the State of Victoria has asked us to insert the following section of the General Orders of the Military Forces of the Commonwealth, 1903:—

#### (E) AUSTRALIAN ARMY NURSING SERVICE. CONSTITUTION.

16. The Australian Army Nursing Service is a voluntary body, and is formed to provide for the purpose of supplying trained and efficient nurses under an organised system, which shall be available for duty at the base hospitals and stationary field hospitals in times of national emergency.

The Army Nursing Service will consist of nurses holding qualification certificates, as hereafter specified, who may desire to offer their services for enrolment as such.

The members of the Nursing Service after enrolment will be considered and dealt with as a volunteer portion of the Medical Services of the Commonwealth, under the Director-General Army Medical Services.

#### CLASSIFICATION.

17. The classification is as follows:—  
Lady Superintendent of Nurses.  
Matron.  
Nursing Sisters.

#### ESTABLISHMENT.

16. The establishment of the Australian Army Nursing Service will be until further orders:—

STATE.	LADY SUPERINTENDENTS.	MATRONS.	NURSING SISTERS.
New South Wales ...	1	1	24
Victoria ...	1	1	24
Queensland ...	1	1	14
South Australia ...	1	1	14
Western Australia ...	1	1	10
Tasmania ...	1	1	10
	6	6	96

#### AGE.

19. A candidate for the appointment of Matron or Nursing Sister must not be under twenty-one years nor over forty years of age, and must have had at least three years' preliminary service and training combined in a duly recognised civil general hospital. Nursing Sisters on attaining the age of fifty will be retired from the Australian Army Nursing Service.

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