

The most notable achievement of the year is the accomplishment of the long-desired change in the transport regulations—assigning nurses to the saloon mess after the medical officers. Some of the chiefs of the various departments to which the matter was “respectfully referred for remark” fought it, but that matters little, as we won.

As their superintendents, ladies, you have every reason to be proud, as I am, of the showing of your pupils, and of the place they have made for themselves in the face of many adverse circumstances and conditions. These things have been accomplished solely and only because of their professional excellence and their personal attributes of character and heart. They uniformly express themselves in personal letters to me as a well-satisfied and happy body of women.

There are still a few things which I desire and hope to get for them, notably two:—

1. Some modification by Congress of the present law *in re* of their subsistence, so that it will be unnecessary for them to contribute from their salary to have their table what it should be.

2. That when circumstances are such, from pressure of work in the hospital, that they cannot be given their annual leave, this may become cumulative. With these points gained I cannot see much left to be desired from the nurses' standpoint.

From the point of view of the Medical Department we look forward to the completion of the big general hospital here in Washington, where all nurses will enter and serve for a certain term, and where perhaps in time the Medical Department might even have its own army training-school.

Great improvements are in progress in two of the general hospitals in the United States—*i.e.*, the one devoted exclusively to the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis at Fort Bayard, N.M., and the large General Hospital at the Presidio of San Francisco.

At the former an expenditure of 100,000 dols. has been authorised. Most of the cases at this hospital are ambulant, but there is an infirmary where those who are running a temperature or who need more than general care are placed. This is to be doubled in size and capacity, and there is to be a new hospital for officers. A medical storehouse, crematory, receiving vault, morgue, and laboratory are to be built. The reservoir supplying the hospital with water is to be enlarged. Five portable houses are to be put up and used for officers' quarters. Other buildings are to be built as needed.

The nurses here, of whom there are twelve, have a house by themselves with every comfort and convenience, and a most excellent mess without any cost to them.

At the Presidio there are thirty-eight nurses on permanent duty, with pretty, comfortable quarters in a wing of the hospital used only by them. They

pay into their mess two or three dollars a month—more than they ought.

At this hospital there is to be a new operating pavilion, with as fine an operating-room as can be built.

There will be under this roof surgeons' dressing-rooms, sterilising kitchens, anæsthetising rooms, recovery rooms, and a room for the preparation of dressings. All floors will be tiled, all walls and ceiling soapstone finish, all angles rounded.

The walls of the operating-room will have door casings and a wainscoting of marble 6 ft. high. They are to be tiled to the ceiling. The room will be lighted by a large skylight of corrugated glass. It is estimated the building will cost only twenty-five dollars less than twenty thousand dollars.

Thus you see our nurses have the advantage of service under all conditions, from those approved as the latest and best for the wonderful aseptic surgery of the day, to the outposts where ingenuity, training, and intelligence must make the most of simple appliances and the best of unfavourable conditions.

I cannot close without making a sincere acknowledgment of our indebtedness to those among you who have helped us to select this noble body of women. Appointments are never made other than in accordance with the recommendations of the superintendent under whom the applicant was trained, and the value of these papers to the office of the Surgeon-General is beyond computation. The information thus secured is never, under any circumstances, given out, so I feel I may ask for a continuance of these favours, and that the reports on these blanks should be made as full as possible. Without these our work would be at a standstill.

## Legal Matters.

### LOVE AT ALL AGES.

In the Leeds Police Court, on Monday, Caroline Louisa Fox, a professional certificated nurse, was summoned by the Rev. Arthur Reginald Light, Senior Curate of St. Michael's Church, Headingley, for using threats towards him. It appears that Mr. Light noticed the nurse in church, and thought it his duty to make her acquaintance as a member of the congregation. She afterwards wrote him a letter, which he resented, and asked her to cease writing to him. Subsequently her unwelcome attentions forced him to call upon her to appear before an arbitrator and sign a bond that she would not further molest him on pain of forfeiting £50. As the annoyance was resumed the matter was brought into court. Both sides having given evidence, the defendant was called upon to enter into a recognisance of £20, and find a surety of £20 to be of good behaviour for twelve months, or in default fourteen days. The lady was forty-five.

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