

"Twenty surgeons' mates each ditto two-thirds of a dollar.

"One clerk, two-thirds of a dollar.

"Two storekeepers, each four dollars per month.

"One nurse to every ten sick, one-fifteenth of a dollar per day (a little more than six cents.), or two dollars per month."

The section goes on to designate the duties of these persons, and adds:—"A matron to superintend the nurses' bedding," &c. The work assigned the nurses was "to attend the sick and obey the matron's orders." From all of which it will be seen that coincident with the birth and organisation of a Medical Department for the Army the need for female nurses was recognised and their presence provided for by legislation.

In July, 1776, the limitation of one nurse to every ten patients was removed and authority given the director of a hospital to employ as many "nurses as necessary for the proper care of the sick in the respective hospitals." Authority was also given for the employment of a cook, or *nurses to act as cooks*. In March of '77 the pay of the Matron was increased to 15 dols. per month, and that of her nurses to 8 dols. In those early days it was thought that nurses were born, not made, and that being a woman one must necessarily be a nurse, and, while the daughters of the struggling Republic had to be taught to cook and to sew, they needed only to follow their intuitions to be able to care for the sick. It took something over a hundred years to educate public opinion to a realisation that the serious duties of the sick-room required something more in the way of qualification than the accident of sex, and still half a century added to that to demonstrate the necessity of fixing by law the minimum degree of education, general and specific, necessary to make a woman fit for the responsibilities of a capable and conscientious nurse. And so, all honour to them, the nurses of those days, who nursed and comforted the sick as best they knew how, "cooked, scrubbed the bunks and floors" as necessity demanded, carrying on their domestic and humanitarian work side by side—and we find no record that they did not do their part well.

In 1861, during the Civil War, Congress again authorised the employment of women as nurses, but these were selected more on account of their matronly age and manners than for any other qualification.

In the second edition of the Revised Statutes, published in 1878, section 1,238 reads: "Women may be employed instead of soldiers in general or permanent hospitals at such times and in such numbers as the Surgeon-General or the Medical Officer in charge may deem proper."

Section 1,277 reads: "Hospital Matrons shall receive 10 dols. per month, female nurses 40 cents per day," from which it appears that already at this time the Matrons had taken the place which they now occupy, namely, as laundresses or servants, and the work of the nurse was recognised of a higher grade and given better pay—*i.e.*, 12 dols. per month.

Thus it will be seen that from the very birth of the U.S. Army provision has been made by Congress for the employment of female nurses in its hospitals, and only in the sense that the latest enactments revoke all earlier ones has the authority for their employment ever been withdrawn.

When the Hospital Corps was established in 1887 it was intended that its members should meet all the requirements for every kind of hospital service, the nursing,

policing, and pharmaceutical work, thereby abolishing the previous practice of a special detail of soldiers from the line to perform these duties. This admirable and efficient corps of to-day justifies and bears witness to the wisdom and far-sightedness of those who planned it. The Navy had no such corps until after the Spanish-American War.

During the happy and uneventful period in our country's history between 1887 and the Spanish-American War, the Hospital Corps proved itself amply sufficient for the care of the sick of a small army of 25,000 men. At this time the corps numbered about 600, and after the addition of what was deemed a sufficient number to meet the emergency of the war, it was thought to be unlikely that the services of female nurses would be required.

It took but a short time, however, to make evident the great desirability of skilled women over the raw material which had been recently added to the corps, and, at the request of the Surgeon-General of the Army, Congress, in April, 1898, authorised the employment of female nurses. On May 10th, 1898, the first nurses were ordered to Key West, Florida, and from that time to the present day the Medical Department has not at any time had less than 100 in its employ. The greatest number at one time was 1,200 in September, 1898, and at the time of the greatest stress there was much difficulty in securing enough suitable applicants to meet the demand.

With the signing of the Army Reorganisation Bill, February 2nd, 1901, the Nurse Corps as provided in Section 19 of that document became a component part of the army (decision of the Judge-Advocate General). The section reads:—

"Sec. 19. That the Nurse Corps (female) shall consist of one superintendent, to be appointed by the Secretary for War, who shall be a graduate of a hospital training-school, having a course of instruction of not less than two years, whose term of office may be terminated at his discretion, whose compensation shall be 1,800 dols. per annum, and of as many chief nurses, nurses, and reserve nurses as may be needed. Reserve nurses may be assigned to active duty when the emergency of the Service demands, but shall receive no compensation except when on such duty: Provided, that all nurses in the Nurse Corps shall be appointed or removed by the Surgeon-General, with the approval of the Secretary of War; that they shall be graduates of hospital training-schools, and shall have passed a satisfactory professional, moral, mental, and physical examination. And provided, that the superintendent and nurses shall receive transportation and necessary expenses when travelling under orders; that the pay and allowances of nurses, and of Reserve nurses, when on active service, shall be forty dollars per month when on duty in the United States, and fifty dollars per month when without the limits of the United States. They shall be entitled to quarters, subsistence, and medical attendance during illness, and they may be granted leave of absence for thirty days, with pay, for each calendar year; and, when serving as chief nurses, their pay may be increased by authority of the Secretary of War, such increase not to exceed twenty-five dollars per month. Payments to the Nurse Corps shall be made by the Pay Department."

The most important changes effected by this legislation were:—

1. That the Superintendent, who, under the Surgeon-

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