

Annotations.

THE QUEEN VICTORIA'S JUBILEE INSTITUTE AND THE HOSPITAL SUNDAY FUND.

Sir Sydney Waterlow presided at a meeting at the Council of the Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund last week, when an important recommendation of the General Purposes Committee came up for approval—viz., that there should be "an alteration in the laws of the constitution so as to enable the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses to receive a grant."

A Resolution approving the recommendation was moved by Mr. Carr Gomm, who said that the matter had been brought before the committee by a deputation from the institute, and it was urged that the nurses did a great deal of first-aid work, and very often rendered such assistance to sufferers that tended to diminish applications to the hospitals. In fact, they did hospital work at the patients' own homes. It seemed only fair that such services should be recognised by a grant, but that could not be done under the present constitution.

After some discussion, in the course of which considerable support was accorded to the recommendation, the proposition was referred back to the committee for further consideration. The Queen's Jubilee Institute has done work for the sick throughout the kingdom which is worthy of all support, and were the Council to extend its scope so as to permit the Institute to benefit from its grants, it would be a recognition of the value of their work which the Queen's Nurses have well earned.

THE CARE AND TREATMENT OF THE SICK AND WOUNDED.

The Royal Commission which was appointed after the South African War to consider the question of the Care and Treatment of the Sick and Wounded during that campaign recommended as a result of their investigations in their report issued in 1901 the appointment of a Departmental Committee or other Committee of experts to inquire into and report upon certain objects.

Amongst these were: The attraction to the Royal Army Medical Corps of a sufficient and regular supply of officers of good professional attainments, the improvement of the position of the officers, and the necessity of employing in the higher posts men selected for their merits rather than by seniority. Also the

employment to a greater extent than that recognised and practised until the later stages of this war of nurses in fixed hospitals for the care of the wounded and of fever and dysenteric patients, and such others as can properly be nursed by females.

As a result a Reorganisation Committee, of which the Secretary of State for War was Chairman, dealt with the Organisation of the Army Medical Service. A White Paper has now been issued containing an abstract of the recommendations of the Royal Commission, and the action taken on those which have been fully considered by the Advisory Board of the Army Medical Service, some subjects being still under the consideration of the Army Council.

Amongst the results recorded are:—The establishment of medical officers has been increased by 125. The pay of these officers has been greatly improved, and a college for their instruction has been opened at Millbank. Promotion to the higher ranks is made upon a system of strict selection based upon positive merit.

A Royal Warrant was issued in March, 1902, approving of the establishment of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. This Warrant greatly improved the conditions of service of nurses, and is attracting highly-qualified nurses.

An increase of 259 nurses has been made to the peace establishment, and this number is being recruited. The needs of all important military hospitals will be met by this addition.

The scale of nurses for fixed hospitals in war has been largely augmented.

The appointment of properly-qualified sanitary officers to all commands at home and abroad has been approved, and already in all home commands and the important commands abroad these officers have been appointed.

To ensure a satisfactory ambulance wagon being provided, a prize was offered by the Secretary of State for War, and many firms competed. After exhaustive trials of many patterns, wagons of a thoroughly satisfactory character have now been selected.

The provision of further reserves of officers and orderlies is still under consideration:—

1. A scheme has been drawn up for the establishment of a reserve of civilian surgeons who will receive military training.
2. A scheme of special enlistment to provide a sufficient reserve of trained orderlies is under consideration.

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