

practical part receives less attention.

Medical military officers gravely doubt the wisdom of the recent regulations dividing the Royal Army Medical Corps into "General Duty" and "Nursing" sections.

That the "Nursing" section is distasteful owing to the power held by the nurses.

That before the promulgation of the present regulations of Q.A.I.M.N.S. military medical officers were not consulted, and that the regulations do not meet with their approval while the rank and file of the R.A.M.C. object to the disciplinary and other control placed in the hands of nursing ladies.

That the requirements of Nursing Sisters in war are a bar to their employment except in base hospitals.

That no male nurses are trained in civil hospitals in England, so that in time of war there is no means of expanding the male sick attendants.

The whole article in fact is a plea for a return to the former system of Army Nursing, and exhibits a male intolerance of the necessary power to carry out their duties being placed in the hands of women.

In regard to the "social status" qualification, it is true that efficiency as a nurse is obtainable without this. The same might be said of ability as a soldier in the case of officers, yet it is considered desirable that an officer should also be a gentleman. Further, it must be remembered that in war these nurses are isolated with a large community of men, and it may be broadly stated that a cultured woman commands discipline and respect from the rank and file which they are not prepared to accord to those of their own order, and maintains her equilibrium in her relations with men of her own rank. As to the preponderance of "females" on the Army Nursing Board, our contemporary makes a false analogy when it asks, "Would it be permissible to have the Governing Body of a Civil Hospital, such as is the constitution of the Army Nursing Board for military hospitals?" The Board is not concerned with their government, but with the efficient organisation of one department in which the work of women, more especially of experienced matrons is of great value. As to the over-staffing of the Military Nursing Service, those who remember the conditions of nursing, when ten Sisters were considered sufficient for a hospital of over 500 beds, will doubt the weight of this assertion, while nothing could show more clearly how little our contemporary appreciates what is involved in nursing than the suggestion that the general duty and nursing sections are better amalgamated.

Our contemporary puts its finger on one weak point when it states that no opportunity for training male nurses is afforded by any civil hospital. This is a point to which the attention of the King's Fund might well be directed.

But the whole article is an unworthy attempt to revert to a condition of military nursing which not only entailed unnecessary suffering on the sick soldier, but was a national disgrace.

No more beneficial bit of reform work has been accomplished of late years than the re-organisation of military nursing, and we feel sure that both Her Majesty the Queen, and the Secretary of State for War, are fully alive to its importance.

Deputation of Anti-Registrationists at the Privy Council Office.

The Deputation arranged by the Hon. Sydney Holland to place before the Lord President of the Council the views of Employers of Nurses in regard to their Registration by the State was received by the Earl of Crewe at the Privy Council Office on Thursday, June 14th, at 12 o'clock, when the ladies and gentlemen whose names were published in our issue of last week were in attendance.

MR. H. A. HARBEN, CHAIRMAN ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL.

The Deputation was introduced by Mr. H. A. Harben, Chairman of the Central Hospital Council for London, who said that the hospitals represented on the Council employed nursing staffs of 2,000 persons, and were capable of turning out some 500 or 600 nurses every year. It would, therefore, be evident that they were qualified to speak on and were deeply interested in the question of the training of nurses.

The views of the Council had been put before the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Registration of Nurses, both in evidence and in the form of a Memorandum. Since then circumstances had changed. The Select Committee had reported in favour of registration, and it had been thought, therefore, that it was not sufficient to state the objections of the Council to Registration on this occasion, but that they should be prepared with an alternative policy. They recognised as legitimate the desire that there should be a record of the experience of nurses available, and they therefore recommended the publication of an Official Directory as apart from a State Register.

In the case of a Register, so long as a woman's name was inserted upon it it was a continuing guarantee that she was a fit and proper person to nurse. On the other hand the opposite would be the logical conclusion in regard to those whose names were not upon it.

The Central Hospital Council had drafted a Memorandum embodying their views and recommendations. It was claimed that registration would prevent insufficiently trained women from nursing. It was important to remember that the nurse, as a rule, was not employed by the patient but by the medical man, who had abundant opportunity of acquainting himself with the general character and standing of nurses supplied by various hospitals or nursing associations.

Very few of the advocates of Registration desired to make it penal for unregistered women to nurse, but Sir Victor Horsley and Dr. Langley Browne had stated to the Select Committee that in the opinion of the British Medical Association it should be penal for women to nurse who were not fully trained.

Imperfectly trained nurses did good work within certain limits and it would be unjust to deprive the poor of their services, which could be obtained for less pay than those of the fully trained nurse.

Mr. Harben then presented the Memorandum of the Central Hospital Council, which we publish in part in another column, in which it was suggested that instead of a State Register an Official Directory

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