

sentation by that Board, and was not in the opinion of his expert advisers in excess of their requirements.

We must remember that sick and convalescent officers in time of peace at any rate are cared for in institutions patronised by royalty in London and at Osborne. We feel sure the Queen will not agree that the efficiency of Her Imperial Military Nursing Service for the care of the men shall be sacrificed to the prejudices of obsolete opinion and ignoble jealousy of the just status granted to the women nurses of that service.

The *British Medical Journal*, referring to the need for Volunteer Military Hospitals, says:—

“The Volunteer force now reaches some quarter of a million men, of whom about 97 per cent. are efficient. The Volunteer Medical Services are contemplating a reorganisation, which shall place them in line with the organisation of the Royal Army Medical Corps, and will, in the course of time, provide the medical units necessary for the mobile field army. But there is no organisation yet in existence which would guarantee the provision of hospital accommodation in places where no such institutions exist in this country. Battles will not necessarily be fought in the vicinity of civil hospitals. It will, therefore, be necessary to arrange for a certain number of general hospitals to be erected in positions which can only be strategically indicated by the nature of the operations which take place. While the number of volunteer medical officers will probably be sufficient to provide surgeons for such units, the nursing staffs, male and female, will be deficient unless steps be taken to make good the want. There is no machinery for the provision of nurses for such a service. There does not appear to be any reason why hospital nurses should not make themselves available for this service. The reason why they have not yet done this is probably to be found in the fact that the nursing profession is a comparatively young one, and has not yet grasped its duties to the State. It is to be hoped that the present stir of reawakened interest in the Auxiliary Services may likewise arouse the nurses to an organised effort to make themselves available for the national schemes of defence.”

It is now nearly twenty years ago (in 1887) since we drew up and submitted to the War Office a scheme for a Volunteer Nurse Corps, which was acknowledged and pigeon-holed. We are glad that the question is being taken up by the *British Medical Journal*, which, with its great influence, could easily carry such a scheme through. Our contemporary says that the nursing profession in this relation has not yet grasped its duty to the State. What we nurses

want to know is when the State is going to grasp its duty to the nursing profession.

According to the *B.M.J.*, Lieutenant-Colonel Valentine Mathews has recognised the importance of special training of the orderlies of the Royal Army Medical Corps (Volunteers) in nursing duties, and has wisely placed some of his men under instruction at the Royal Free Hospital. Here they will obtain from trained nurses a certain amount of experience in dealing with the sick, experience which otherwise hardly falls in their way. But though the knowledge thus gained will assist the orderlies in any nursing duties they may be called upon to perform, they will not be trained in such a manner as will fit them to take up the duties of trained nurses. It is a difficult matter for the mere man to obtain a training as a male nurse, but those of the Royal Army Medical Corps (Volunteers) who show an aptitude for this specialised duty may feel disposed to complete their nursing education and to take up nursing as a profession. Is it out of all reason that the Secretary of State for War should afford facilities for such training of volunteers in military hospitals under the army nurses? Should such be the outcome of the new departure, the Royal Army Medical Corps (Volunteers) will do well to encourage these men, so that in due course they may be in possession of a nursing section of the corps, which will be invaluable in case it should fall to the lot of the national army to be engaged in war. The surgeons of this army will then feel some confidence that the nursing duties will be carried out by men whose hands will not have been soiled by the ordinary “fatigues” of camp, and whose knowledge will prevent their neutralising the skilled precautions of the operator, while the physician will be equally rejoiced to think that he possesses orderlies who are conversant with the nursing of cases of enteric fever and dysentery.

Miss K. Hawson, who has been Matron of the Isolation Hospital, Teignmouth, Devon, has resigned office after thirteen years most excellent work on behalf of the institution. Miss Hawson is a lady with a strong sense of professional duty, and resigns with regret, but finds that family affairs necessitate the sacrifice. She will be very greatly missed.

The Teignmouth District Council can have but a shadowy sense of responsibility for the sick to be admitted to the new Bitten Hospital for Infectious Diseases, to judge from the following advertisement:—

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