

one woman and appoint two "trained" male nurses in her place. But evidently the result was not satisfactory, as we find by October in the same year the War Office issued an order to discharge the male nurses, as experience had already proved that to substitute men for women had not proved a success. The new and present system of military nursing in Denmark was introduced in 1898. Under its regulations pupil women nurses are received for a term of six months' practical training under supervision, and are taught theory by the medical officers. They are examined, but not certificated. After the first six months' probation, they may take service as assistant nurses, and are as well paid and provided for as nurses in civil hospitals. Moreover, they are eligible for a graduated pension after ten years' work.

I was able to pay a visit to the Military Hospital at Copenhagen, and see the nurses at work, owing to the courtesy of Dr. Gordon Norrie and his charming wife, well known to the readers of this journal as a member of the International Council of Nurses. One fine day we went to the Rigensgade, in which street the hospital is situated, and, passing through its gates, found ourselves in the court around which the picturesque hospital is grouped.

This institution has an interesting history. In the year 1668 it was built for an alchemist's laboratory, and was called "Guldhuset," or the Gold House. In 1677 it was enlarged and transformed into a wool manufactory, and this establishment flourished so exceedingly that a hundred years later it was employing 1,200 workers, the cloth for military uniforms being made there. In 1815 King Frederick VI., whose bust over the gateway still keeps guard over the court, issued an order that the Gold House should be transformed into a hospital for the garrison of Copenhagen, and it was opened for this purpose three years later, in 1818.

The hospital contains about 500 beds, medical and surgical cases in different divisions, and clinics. There is also a division for women and children, one for eye and ear cases, and one for epidemic fevers.

We went first to the Ophthalmic Wards, of which Dr. Gordon Norrie is in charge, and there found a perfect little eye hospital, everything in the best of order, and under the direction of a Sister of great experience and practical ability. In every ward we found neat, well educated women nurses. The male orderlies also appeared superior men. They are selected from the best conscripts (military service is compulsory in Denmark), and I was informed that many of them had passed their final examinations at the University to become lawyers, ministers, etc. Others are teachers, clerks, and some skilled artisans. They are subjected to drill for two and a half months, and then they serve for six months in one of the military hospitals. During their first drill they are taught military deportment and discipline, besides elementary anatomy, physiology, and first aid to the injured. In the hospital they take

part in the nursing service, under the supervision of the nurses, from whom they take orders as far as nursing is concerned.

"Experience has taught us in Denmark," said Mrs. Norrie, "that this is the best way to maintain discipline and order in military wards."

And, indeed, throughout the Danish hospitals, women nurses are to be found even in the wards where venereal diseases are treated.

All the wards I visited were well kept, and comfortable, though the hospital is too charmingly picturesque with its slanting red tiled roofs, and nooks and corners, to be quite up to date architecturally. The fact, however, that every young man in Denmark who is strong enough must be treated in the military hospital of his garrison, has, no doubt, inspired the Danish Army Medical Corps with the determination that these good patriots shall be well cared for, as they deserve, by their mother country, and the new military hospital near Copenhagen, which I did not see, is, I am told, a model of its kind.

#### MRS. NORRIE'S AMBULANCE BASKET.

In use at the Garnisonssygehus I saw a most useful ambulance basket, designed by Mrs. Norrie, and exhibited by her at the Women's Exhibition, held in Copenhagen in 1895, where it was at once bought by the military hospital, and is now in general use.

This stretcher, instead of being a flat wooden frame, covered with mattress, etc., is made of iron in the shape of an elongated shallow cradle, well padded with detachable cushions. In this cradle a patient feels much more secure, and is certainly much more comfortable than when strapped on to an ordinary stretcher. The loose pads are made of very cheap material, and can be easily disinfected (as can the frame), or burnt, if necessary, if infected or soiled. The whole contrivance can be made up as a bed, with blankets, sheets, and hot water bottle, and when fixed in the ambulance, leaves little to desire in the way of comfort. E.G.F.

#### A Substitute for Anæsthetics.

A Dutch physician made a discovery while travelling in Java. He chanced to stop one day at Sourabaya, where the Javanese maintain a large hospital for prisoners. His attention was drawn to the fact that in the treatment of such cases as necessitated an anæsthetic the native doctors did not resort to a drug, but instead they were manifestly reducing their patient to a condition of stupor by compressing the carotid artery with their fingers. The Dutch physician was so much impressed with this primitive method of rendering the patient partially insensible to pain, that he made a careful study of it. He discovered that this method of anæsthesia, although unknown in modern surgery, was, in all probability, in vogue among the ancients.

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