

the military hospitals only male nurses have been employed. This service has not proved quite satisfactory, and Dr. Letulle pointed out its insufficiency to the Minister, and suggested to him the reform, which he has now undertaken, of introducing a corps of women nurses into army hospitals. This decision has given much satisfaction. M. A. Gervais, a Deputy, and Member of the Army Committee, in making the announcement refers to the high standard of Army Nursing now attained in England by well trained nurses, and says that it is not possible for France to remain for long in an inferior position.

The preliminary organisation is almost completed. An agreement has been entered into between the Director of the Department of Public Health and the Director of Val-de-Grâce, the medical inspector Delorme. The *infirmières* will be placed in charge of the sick soldiers. They will not undertake administrative work to any extent; that, in each ward, will be in the hands of the *infirmier-major*. They will be under the direction of the military doctors, and receive their instructions from them; under the *infirmières* will be the *infirmiers*. Their salary in the first instance will be 1,200 francs. They will be boarded by the hospital, and the question of lodging will be dealt with according to the needs of the case. For want of hospital accommodation they will, it is expected, usually live in the town, in which case they will receive an allowance of 300 francs. The experiment at Val-de-Grâce, will be carefully watched, and, according to the results attained, the Minister of War will consider under what conditions this new *personnel* shall be introduced into the principal hospitals of Paris and the Provinces. A great responsibility, therefore, devolves upon the nurses, to whom the initial experiment is entrusted.

The organisation of the new Service will be entrusted to the Maison Ecole d'Infirmières Privées, Paris, with which Mlle. Chaptal is so closely connected. We congratulate this school on the honour thus accorded it.

In the Annual Report of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, the Council has especial pleasure in reporting that the first examination open to present Matrons for the certificate of technical fitness for Matronship was held on 24th October, 1906, and that of 17 Matrons who presented themselves, 16

passed. The Council believes that this is the first examination of its kind in any nursing association. It has also pleasure in reporting that arrangements have now been made for completing the course as laid down for future Matrons.

Miss Glover has been appointed first lecturer on hospital administration and the management of a training school, and the Working Men's College has stepped into the breach made by the temporary failure of the Education Department to give practical courses in household economics and cookery, and arranged a complete course. The Council hopes during the coming year to see its first diplomates for the full course of the Matron's certificate.

The August number of *Una*, the official organ of that Association, contains a charming illustration of Miss Ayres, the Matron, and a group of Sisters of the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, taking tea in a leafy garden. They all look very trim, and without doubt our Australian cousins are very handsome women.

### A Presentation.

A pleasant ceremony took place last week at the Committee Meeting of the West Herts Infirmary, Hemel Hempstead, when the Matron, Miss Catherine Wilkinson, who is resigning the position after fifteen years' excellent work, was presented in the name of the Committee, doctors, and subscribers, with a canteen of silver, a handsome silver rose bowl, a pair of silver candlesticks, a silver breakfast cruet, and a cheque. The Treasurer, the Rev. W. Tyrwhitt-Drake, who presented these gifts, alluded to the kindly feeling which had always existed between the Committee and Miss Wilkinson, and wished her every success in her new work at Bournemouth, where she is about to open a Nursing and Convalescent Home for paying patients.

Miss Wilkinson has also been the recipient of many other gifts, including an exquisite pair of mother-of-pearl opera glasses, from past and present nurses. A few friends have also presented her with an opal and diamond pendant.

Miss Wilkinson was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen, and was afterwards Assistant Matron at the Royal Infirmary, Derby, where she had the honour of being one of those who received the late Queen on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of the present Infirmary by her Majesty.

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