

must mean that many of the so-called homes are quite unfit for sick people to go to. "I only know one nursing home in the whole of London I would send anyone to," a hospital Matron was once heard to say, and this disinterested professional opinion is worth noting." A gruesome tale indeed the writer does unfold—rooms dingy and dirty, blankets blood-stained, patients devoured by bugs, slops unemptied from Saturday to Monday, the charges exorbitant, varying from £8 to £24 a week—"the time has come, according to 'Mrs. Harris,' when people may venture to doubt whether the doctors, who, for whatever reasons, are wedded to a single idea, are the best advisers for sick folk and their friends."

That the writer of this article has just cause for suspicion concerning the condition of some co-called nursing homes there is no doubt. Well trained nurses know that there is great need for reform. First, that the badly-managed institutions, without let or hindrance, are permitted to compete with those which are admirably conducted, as many homes now are. Doctors nowadays have very little personal interest in nursing homes. What they might do, however, for the benefit both of the public and the nurses, is to insist upon efficient nurses being registered by the State, and homes being registered and inspected. Such reforms would be welcomed by all professional proprietors of well managed Nursing Homes, and would eliminate much fraudulent dealing.

A careful system of inspection and registration of Nursing Homes is carried out in Australasia. Thus patients and doctors are protected from the abuses referred to in the *National Review*.

NAVY NURSING.

Nursing matters in connection with the Navy have been receiving a good deal of consideration of late, and the Admiralty, in order to obtain a supply of trained nurses has invited the general hospitals to undertake to supply them in time of war. It would appear that the Admiralty has not adopted the same liberal system of organisation as the War Office under Mr. Haldane's benign rule, but approves its reserve of nurses being supplied "along with the lint and the bandages." In other words, the Navy Department ignores the patriotism of the individual nurse, who it does not invite to volunteer for service. We presume the hospital committees which guarantee human material like merchandise will at least have the grace to gain their consent when engaging their nursing staff, to the contract made with the First Lord of the Admiralty.

Red Cross Work.

Every day letters pour into the Victoria Street offices of the British Red Cross Society containing expressions of eagerness to take part in its new scheme to render help to the sick and wounded in the event of invasion, and in the counties many lady presidents of local Red Cross branches have fixed dates for meetings.

The Red Cross Society has published a memorandum in which it is pointed out that the organisation is intended to provide supplementary aid to the Territorial Medical Service to meet the needs of war at home. There need be no limit to the number of detachments. An opportunity is given to the British Red Cross Society to take a share in the work appropriate to those who in all civilised countries seek to mitigate the lot of the sick and wounded in war. Speaking generally, there is at present no personnel for organisations connecting the field ambulances with railway lines (clearing hospitals), and no personnel organised for "rest stations," or temporary hospitals (stationary hospitals) along routes of evacuation. The scheme now issued is devised to fill this gap, and to provide a system for the removal of the sick and wounded from the field ambulances to the lines of railway and thence to the general hospitals. After all engagements the wounded are removed to a point some miles behind the line of fire by the field ambulances. From such point the further transport of the wounded is to be undertaken by the voluntary aid detachments, who will administer to the wants of those under their charge until the general hospital is reached. The men should be trained as stretcher bearers, and to a certain extent as male nurses; others should be trained as clerks and in sanitary work—such as disinfection of buildings and field sanitation—and each detachment should include some men who are expert carpenters or mechanics. The women's detachments would be employed chiefly in forming railway rest stations, for preparing and serving meals and refreshments to sick and wounded during process of evacuation by railway, and for taking temporary charge in the evacuation stations or temporary hospitals of severe cases unable to continue the journey. The members should therefore be trained not only in field cooking and preparation of invalid diets, but in arranging small wards for patients in suitable buildings, preferably near a railway station, and in such nursing as is necessary for the temporary care of patients until they can be transferred to a hospital. Half detachments might be employed for duty in ambulance trains.

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