

uniform standard of training for nurses in fever hospitals, and it has already been successful in securing the important co-operation of the Metropolitan Asylums Board in London, which has sanctioned the adoption of the scheme of fever training laid down by the Association in its hospitals. A comprehensive schedule of ward work and a syllabus of lectures, which has been approved by the Metropolitan Asylums Board for use in the hospitals under its control, has been drawn up. This is especially interesting, as it is the first instance in this country of the acceptance and adoption by a public authority of the standard of nursing education defined by a Nurses' Association.

NURSING IN GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

The importance of the work of trained nurses to the community receives striking confirmation by their increasing employment by Government Departments. The Admiralty, the War Office, the India Office, and the Home Office, all employ nurses, and a large number are supervised by the Local Government Board. The Colonial Office has not established a Nursing Service of its own, but employs the nurses selected by the Colonial Nursing Association.

THE ADMIRALTY.

Quite recently the Admiralty has decided to form a Reserve of Nurses in connection with Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service. Unfortunately, it is not proposed to invite individual nurses to volunteer for enrolment, but to rely upon the Matrons of civil hospitals to select such suitable nurses as they can spare, a regrettable decision, which ignores the valuable element of individual patriotism, and instead of providing for the organisation of an efficient Reserve in time of peace, relies upon a sufficient number of nurses being hurriedly commandeered on the outbreak of war, a method under which the nurses so enrolled must lack the cohesion and *esprit de corps* of a standing Service. Further, experience has proved in connection with the Military Nursing Service, which has always employed the voluntary method of enrolment in connection with the Army Nursing Service Reserve, that nurses who have had some experience in other branches of their profession after certification are more adaptable than those who have only had hospital training.

THE WAR OFFICE.

So far, the War Office is the only Government office employing nurses which has established a Nursing Department, with a Matron-in-Chief as Executive Officer, though the India Office has appointed two trained ladies to assist it in the selection of candidates for Queen Alexandra's Military Nursing Service for India.

The result of the War Office action has been an immense development of the Nursing Service, both numerically and in general efficiency. The Nursing Board, which controls the Service, has instituted a very practical examination for Sisters who desire posts as Matrons before they are eligible for promotion, and it has also organised an efficient system of training for orderlies.

The enthusiasm with which nurses throughout Great Britain have enrolled themselves as members of the Nursing Service of the Territorial Force, which is under the control of an Advisory Council at the War Office, has demonstrated the popularity of the volunteer method of enrolment. Throughout the country the Organising (now Principal) Matrons have no difficulty in securing the full staff of Matrons, Sisters, and nurses needed for the general hospitals, and a much larger number would be available if required.

Early in the year an influential Committee was formed in London under the Presidency of the Lady Mayoress (Lady Truscott) to co-operate with the City and County of London Territorial Associations, and to organise the Territorial Force Nursing Service for the four general hospitals for that area. The nurses required were speedily enrolled.

The provision of suitable buildings for 23 general hospitals throughout Great Britain, as well as their equipment, will be undertaken by the British Red Cross Society.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

The need of a Nursing Department is specially evident at the Local Government Board Office, which controls the Poor Law Infirmeries, the Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, and the Asylums for the Insane throughout the country. In some of the large infirmeries, hospitals, and asylums the nursing service is very efficient, but in many of the smaller infirmeries radical alteration is necessary. The formation by the Local Government Board of a Nursing Department, superintended by a Matron-in-Chief, with highly qualified nurses working under her as inspectors, would raise and equalise the level of Poor Law nursing throughout the country.

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE POOR LAWS.

In February of this year the long-expected Report of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress was presented to Parliament, the key-note of its recommendations being that "the division of the Local Government Board, which has hitherto dealt with the 'Relief of the Poor' should in future be known as the *Public Assistance Division*." This demonstrates the earnest desire to substitute "a system of help" for those in unfortunate

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