

service, to prove the existence of the qualifications necessary for the work of a surgeon's assistant. After having passed the examination, they passed from the rank of an apprentice to that of a surgeon's assistant, with the additional rank of a lance-corporal, and pay raised to correspond.

After a year's service they were given the rank of sergeant and corresponding means of support. Twelve years' service, which included active service, were necessary for the attainment of a civil appointment.

Those men, who had left the active service, were made use of during mobilisation, manoeuvres, etc., or if a surplus existed, they were placed under arms in their troop. In the latter case, however, they had to assist the doctors and surgeons on any given occasion. One year later each battalion was furnished with bandaging apparatus for the men-nurses; again, one year later, a book of instructions was compiled, of which each nurse received a copy.

This new creation of the Prussian army met with the highest approval of the authorities, even before it had been put to the test by a war; this happened for the first time in 1848 and 1849. In 1852, by an Order-in-Council, their appellation was altered into that of lazarret assistants, and they were given a uniform to correspond to their services.

At the same time a sub-division of military nurses was formed, 20 men to each army corps, so that in case of war there should be a larger number of fairly well trained nurses to dispose of.

Two years later companies of stretcher-bearers were formed, 45 to each army corps. A constant improvement took place in the instruction and in the position of the lazarret assistants, especially when renewed wars showed the importance of these institutions. Their military appointments were threefold, as first they had to serve in the army for six months before offering themselves voluntarily for medical training in nursing.

It was in the war of 1870-71 that they underwent the crucial test. 8,336 lazarret assistants were on duty in the German army, and had to give first help to 468,687 sick men, and to 116,821 wounded, not reckoning the number of wounded belonging to the French army. 107 Prussian lazarret assistants laid down their lives, 16 died a brave death on the battlefield, 9 afterwards succumbed to their wounds.

A further improvement of the provision for the sick, during time of war, was made by the creation of a medical staff corps. This altered the military rank of doctors from officials into officers, which consequently influenced the

training system for the lazarret-assistants and soldier-nurses.

In 1885 hospital wards were arranged in the barracks, where amidst the soldiers, instead of only in separate lazarets, lazarret assistants could better provide for cases of slight illness, than had been the case hitherto.

In 1886 the last edition of the book of instructions for the soldier-nurses was published, but next year it is to be followed by a new one, as an addition to the plan of instruction for the state examination.

Since 1891 separate medical schools have been opened in the large lazarets, to provide a uniform, common training of the soldier-nurses; also the bandaging materials are prepared by them in special institutions.

In 1892, 1893, and 1894 great numbers of lazarret assistants were ordered out to combat the great cholera epidemic in Hamburg and its extension to the Rhine, Elbe, Oder, and Vistula; they stood the test admirably, as was proved in many cases by the bestowal of a badge of honour.

In the other German kingdoms the development of the nursing system had, in part, begun later and proceeded in a somewhat different manner, but it was similar enough to easily fit in with the main system, when the union of the German army took place after our last war. In our recently developed navy it was also necessary to adopt this system to the special conditions.

*(To be concluded.)*

## League News.

The first general meeting of the Cleveland Street branch of the Central London Sick Asylum Nurses' League was held at that institution on Friday, October 14th. The President, Miss C. B. Leigh, was in the chair, and the crowded room testified to the enthusiasm of the members, as well as to their interest in the subject of Nursing Organisation and State Registration, on which an address was given by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.

In introducing the speaker, Miss C. B. Leigh remarked that it was sometimes said that the Cleveland Street Infirmary was dreary outside, but those who visited it were sure of a warm welcome within. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick was well known to them as a real friend to all nurses, and they were proud, as a League, that she should be the first speaker to come to address them.

Mrs. Fenwick then described the movement for the State Registration of Nurses, and showed how, although much has been accom-

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