

NURSING IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

Nothing could demonstrate more clearly the value of the work of trained nurses to the Empire than the fact that they are employed in connection with a number of Government Departments and are, indeed, indispensable to their efficiency. Nurses now work in connection with the Admiralty, the War Office, the India Office, the Home Office, the Foreign Office, the Colonial Office, and the Local Government Board Office, all of which have definitely established nursing departments of their own, or engage the services of nurses; in the case of the Colonial Office, through a voluntary agency, the Colonial Nursing Association.

THE WAR OFFICE.

The War Office is still the only Government Office the nursing department of which has a Matron-in-Chief as its executive officer, and the extraordinary increase in the efficiency and popularity of the Service since this step was taken amply demonstrates the wisdom and necessity for the supervision of the members of a skilled profession, such as nursing, by an experienced member of that profession.

The Nursing Board at the War Office is further distinguished as the only body in this country which has instituted a course of instruction and practical examination for Sisters before they are eligible for promotion as Matrons in the Service. How necessary such a test is events during the past year in connection with a civil hospital, to which we shall refer in due course, have shown.

Miss Hamilton, Matron of St. Thomas's Hospital, has been appointed a member of the Nursing Board.

THE ARMY NURSING SERVICE RESERVE.

The members of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve are organised to supplement the regular Service in the event of war, either at home or abroad. They work like that Service under the direction of the Matron-in-Chief.

THE TERRITORIAL FORCE NURSING SERVICE.

The War Office has also demonstrated its wisdom by the establishment on a voluntary basis of the Territorial Force Nursing Service, which owes much of its success to the energy of Miss E. S. Haldane, LL.D. The response of the nurses to the invitation to volunteer for this Service has resulted in the enrolment of a most efficient and patriotic nursing staff for the 23 general hospitals provided for in the event of invasion, who could be mobilised immediately if necessity arose.

Early in the year the nurses of the Territorial Service in the City and County of London were

gratified by a summons to Buckingham Palace to receive their badges from Queen Alexandra.

A new office has been created at the War Office, that of Matron-in-Chief of the Territorial Force Nursing Service, to which Miss Sidney Browne, R.R.C., has been appointed.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

No less than 7,000 nurses work under the Local Government Board in England and Wales at the present time, and in London alone there are more beds in the Poor Law infirmaries than in all the general hospitals south of the Tweed. The Local Government Board has not yet emulated the War Office by creating a definite nursing department, with a Matron-in-Chief at its head, but a most important step forward was taken by the President, the Right Hon. John Burns, M.P., early in the present year in appointing Miss Ina Stansfeld, Assistant General Inspector in the Metropolitan District, as Chief Woman Inspector, and creating three new posts for inspectors to which a fourth was subsequently added, to which he appointed experienced nurses, viz., Mrs. Lancelot Andrews, Gold Medallist of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, who had also had experience as Lady Inspector of boarded-out children, Miss Helen Todd, also trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Matron of the Wandsworth Infirmary, Miss Margaret Lea, trained at the London Hospital, and an Inspector under Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, and later Miss E. M. Jones, Lady Superintendent of the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, as Inspector for Wales. All of these ladies are of high standing in the nursing world.

The duties of the new officers include the inspection of the maternity wards, nurseries, infirmaries, and nursing arrangements in Poor Law Institutions, and the wisdom of Mr. John Burns, in appointing trained nurses to these positions, is already amply justified. A further instance of Mr. Burns' care for the efficiency of his department is to be found in the opening of the Park Hospital, Hither Green (in addition to the Children's Infirmary, Carshalton) as a hospital to which the sick and infirm children of the Metropolitan infirmaries can be drafted. It is one of the most humane and hygienic actions to the credit of any Cabinet Minister, involving the removal of the children from the mixed wards of Metropolitan infirmaries to pure country air, in surroundings in which their special needs can be carefully considered.

A STANDARD FOR POOR LAW NURSES.

Evidence that the need is felt for greater uniformity and system in the training and certification of nurses is to be found in the

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