

up herself if I had not consented to do so. I was only glad to have given her this comfort and satisfaction in the sudden trial she was called upon to endure. I should add they were neither Roman Catholics nor High Church people.

ROYAL NAVY MEDICAL SERVICE.

NEW REGULATIONS.

A Circular Letter (No. 24) has been issued by the Admiralty, dated August 11th, 1911, authorising new regulations in the Royal Navy Medical Service, including the Sick Berth Staff, Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service, the Increase of the Nursing Staff in the Home Hospitals, and the Reserves and Organisation of War. We print below those portions of the letter which are of special interest to, or directly affect nurses.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, having had under consideration the recommendations of a committee appointed to inquire into the Naval Medical Service, have approved of the changes in the organisation and conditions of service of this Branch of the Royal Navy as set forth below, to take effect where not already in operation from July 1st, 1911, except as may be otherwise specified in this letter.

The recommendations adopted are enumerated for the general information of the Fleet. Individual action has been taken as required, and the necessary alterations in the King's Regulations and Admiralty Instructions will be made in due course.

I.—MEDICAL OFFICERS.

TITLES.

The titles Surgeon-General Royal Navy and Deputy Surgeon-General Royal Navy to be substituted for Inspector-General of Hospitals and Fleets and Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals and Fleets.

II.—SICK BERTH STAFF.

ENTRY AND TRAINING.

A knowledge of decimals, proportion, and percentage has been included in the qualifications for entry as Probationary Sick Berth Attendant.

2. The course of training for Probationary Sick Berth Attendants has been extended from six months to twelve months, this period to include the time devoted to setting up drill, &c. The training of the Probationers, previously limited to Portsmouth and Devonport, has been extended to Chatham.

3. An examination is to be instituted for the Chief Petty Officer grade of Chief Sick Berth

Steward. The examinations for all grades will be standardised and carried out in future at the three Home Hospitals acting as examination centres, with the exception that the examination for second Sick Berth Steward may be held also at Malta Hospital.

4. Special courses of instruction have been instituted at the Naval Hospitals for the qualification of Sick Berth ratings for duty as Operating Room Attendants and Laboratory Attendants, and arrangements have been made for completing the number required.

5. As the absence of any information respecting the qualifications of Sick Berth ratings for Nursing work must operate against their chances of obtaining employment in civil life when they leave the Naval Service, it has been decided that a certificate of general knowledge of Nursing shall be granted to a Sick Berth Attendant on completion of his first three years' service, further certificates being granted later to men who qualify in massage or in other special subjects, and to those who have done duty in Lunatic Wards and can be thoroughly recommended as attendants on lunatics.

PAY AND ALLOWANCES.

No alteration is made in the scale of substantive pay for the Sick Berth Staff, except that to compensate Sick Berth Attendants for the loss occasioned by the extension of the Probationers' Course to 12 months, the pay of Sick Berth Attendants "after training" is increased from 1s. 8d. to 1s. 9d.

2. The following rates of extra remuneration are approved:

Operating Room Attendant (<i>vide Section 4 of Entry and Training</i>)	When employed, 6d. a day.
Laboratory Attendant (<i>vide Section 4 of Entry and Training</i>)	6d. "
Men on duty in Zymotic Wards of Naval Hospitals and Sick Quarters	6d. "
Attendants in Lunatic Wards of Naval Hospitals and Sick Quarters	4d. "
Allowance for dispensing duties to Sick Berth Staff employed as Dispensers at the smaller Naval Hospitals and Sick Quarters, and to all Chief Sick Berth Stewards, Sick Berth Stewards, and Second Sick Berth Stewards afloat	2d. "

3. The number of allowances for Massage has been increased from 24 to 38 and the amount

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)