

reduced from 1s. a day to 6d. a day for men qualifying in future. When payments or credits of this allowance at the higher rate are made a statement should appear on the ledger in every case that the men concerned qualified before July 1st, 1911.

#### HEAD WARDMASTERS.

The Scale of Pension for Head Wardmasters has been assimilated to that in force for Artificer Engineers.

The numbers of these Warrant Officers are being increased from 4 to 8 by the addition of a Head Wardmaster for Portland and Gibraltar, and two for Hospital Ships.

The records of eligible candidates for the rank to be kept at the Medical Department of the Admiralty, and reports of their qualifications and recommendations are to be forwarded half-yearly to the Medical Director-General of the Navy.

#### ADVANCEMENT OF RATINGS.

As it is desirable that Sick Berth Ratings shall be able to reach the grade of Chief Petty Officer before the age of 32, the age qualification at present prescribed for advancement to Chief Sick Berth Steward is abolished, and the character qualification reduced from 14 to 7 years V.G. Having regard to the limited number of promotions possible to Chief Sick Berth Steward, the intention is that advancements to that grade shall be made strictly by selection from the list of Sick Berth Stewards eligible. It is intended also that advancement to the ratings of Sick Berth Steward and Second Sick Berth Steward shall be subject to the Medical Officers under whom the men have served certifying that they are satisfied from actual experience that the candidates, who are otherwise eligible, are suitable professionally for such advancement.

To ensure that the right men are selected for Chief Sick Berth Steward, and that only men who are fit in all respects for Sick Berth Steward and Second Sick Berth Steward are advanced to those ratings, it is essential that the records of services at the R.N. Depôts shall contain full particulars of qualifications, recommendations, &c.

To provide for this an amended form of report on Sick Berth ratings is being drawn up, to be used in the place of Form S 507 in the case of this Branch, and my Lords desire that the attention of the Medical Officers of the Fleet may be directed to the importance of this return being punctually rendered, with all details conscientiously filled in, in the interests not only of the individual but also of the efficiency of the Naval Medical Service.

#### UNIFORM.

(a) Head Wardmasters to be distinguished by a stripe of red cloth similar to the purple stripe worn by Artificer Engineers. This decision has already been given effect to.

(b) During employment in Hospital wards white trousers to be worn by Chief Sick Berth Stewards or Sick Berth Stewards, and white tunic and

trousers by Second Sick Berth Stewards and Sick Berth Attendants. The supply and washing will be free of cost to the men.

(c) Men qualified for special duties—*i.e.*, Masseurs, Operating Room Attendants, and Laboratory Attendants, to wear a distinctive badge on the arm.

#### III.—QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S ROYAL NAVAL NURSING SERVICE.

An intermediate rank to be established between Head Sister and Nursing Sister, with the title of "Superintending Sister." The Superintending Sisters to be seven in number, and to hold the appointments of Senior Sisters at Gibraltar, Malta, Hong Kong, and Portland Naval Hospitals, and Second Sister at the Naval Hospitals at Chatham, Haslar and Plymouth.

(ii.) Superintending Sisters to be promoted by selection from the list of Nursing Sisters and Head Sisters to be promoted in like manner from the lists of Superintending Sisters and Nursing Sisters.

(iii) The Staff of Nursing Sisters at the three Home Hospitals to be augmented, involving an increase of ten in the total number of Nursing Sisters hitherto allowed.

(iv) The following improved scale of pay to be introduced :

	A Year.				
	£	..	£ s.	..	£
Nursing Sisters, on entry ..	40	..	2 10	..	45
" " after three years ..	50	..	5 0	..	65
Superintending Sisters ..	70	..	5 0	..	100
Head Sisters ..	130	..	10 0	..	160

(v) Several minor improvements have been introduced in the regulations governing the entry, probation, seniority, resignation, and pensions of members of Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service. The rules governing the number of Maid Servants allowed have been slightly modified, and changes have been made in the Uniform of Nursing Sisters.

#### IV.—NAVAL HOSPITALS.

After careful consideration of the staffs of the three Home Hospitals, and their distribution of work, my Lords have arrived at the following conclusions :

- The numbers employed on Nursing Duties are inadequate ;
- It is undesirable that extraneous duties, such as cooking, cleaning of sick berth quarters, hospital corridors, windows, &c., and the work of messengers, telephone attendants and others, shall continue to be performed by the Sick Berth Staff ;
- Too great a use is made of convalescent patients for Nursing and general duty to make up for deficiency of staff.

Fresh complements have therefore been drawn up for these three Hospitals. In fixing the numbers the Sick Berth Staff required for purely nursing duties have been kept distinct from those required for disciplinary, administrative and

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