

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland has during the year held two meetings in London, and two in the provinces, at Leicester and Winchester. The provincial meetings have proved a great pleasure to the London members, and have enabled those who live some distance from town to attend Council meetings. The greatest hospitality and kindness were extended by Miss Rogers, of Leicester, and Miss Carpenter Turner, of Winchester; the Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League entertained the Council to supper. The Council took part in the Nursing Pageant, and also passed resolutions in reference to the National Insurance Bill.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF NURSES.

The Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association has held regular meetings, and has interested itself in the National Insurance Bill as it affects Poor Law nurses.

The Midland Association of Matrons and Lady Superintendents, in the counties of Warwickshire, Worcestershire, and Staffordshire, of which the president is Miss E. M. Musson, Matron of the General Hospital, Birmingham, has held several meetings for consultation on professional matters.

The Superintendents working under Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses have met in conference through their professional associations, and thoroughly enjoyed their opportunities for professional and social intercourse.

NURSING IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

There are now few Government Departments which do not employ or control nurses, directly or indirectly.

THE ADMIRALTY.

The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have during the year had under consideration the recommendations of a committee appointed to enquire into the Naval Medical Service, and in this connection have approved of certain changes in the organisation and conditions of service in this branch of the Royal Navy, which includes Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service. An intermediate rank of "Superintending Sister" has been established between the Head Sisters and the Nursing Sisters, and an improved scale of pay has been introduced. We regret, however, that no nursing department with a matron-in-chief as its head has been established at the Admiralty.

It is the most urgent need of the Service, and a reform which is overdue.

In regard to the male staff of the Home hospitals, the Lords Commissioners arrived at the conclusion that the members employed on nursing duties were inadequate, that it was undesirable that extraneous duties such as cooking, cleaning, &c., should be done by the Sick Berth Staff, and that too great a use was made of convalescent patients for nursing and general duty to make up for the deficiency. They have therefore revised the duties and numbers of the Sick Berth Staff for ordinary hospital work, and also provided for a supernumerary Sick Berth Staff to meet the requirements of nursing in epidemics.

The Admiralty has provided for a Reserve of Naval Nursing Sisters in war by entering into an agreement with some of the civil hospitals to supply a certain number of nurses whenever required, the contracting hospitals to receive "a donation of £3 for each nurse supplied to compensate for the inconvenience which will be caused by the removal of a portion of their staffs." The arrangement is one which will not appeal to the patriotism of nurses in the same way as inviting them to volunteer individually which has made the Territorial Force Nursing Service so popular.

THE WAR OFFICE.

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service is still the only Government Service which has sanctioned the office of matron-in-chief. The regular Military Nursing Service and the Army Nursing Service Reserve are under the control of the matron-in-chief at the War Office. This Reserve is to be supplied by contract by hospital authorities when occasion arises, not to be thoroughly organised in time of peace to be ready for time of war.

An Advisory Council at the War Office deals with the Territorial Force Nursing Service, which has its own matron-in-chief.

POOR LAW NURSING.

The Boards of Guardians and the medical superintendents of some of the Metropolitan Poor Law infirmaries have been consulting together as to a standard of training for Poor Law nurses. We understand that, so far, the matrons of these institutions have not been consulted on this question, on which they alone are experts, and no scheme for the education of nurses under the Poor Law decided upon without the advice and concurrence of the matrons could command the confidence of the nursing profession at large or of its Poor Law branch.

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