

training" substituted. Every hospital of standing in the country, with the exception of the London Hospital, now certifies its nurses after not less than three years' training, and the requirements of a whole public Service should not be lowered because one hospital, for economic reasons, maintains an obsolete standard.

The Service is also prejudicially affected by the fact that promotion to the higher posts is apparently reserved for those trained at the London Hospital, a system which discourages the best class of woman trained in other hospitals from entering it, which is calculated to do great injury to the Service.

The Army Nursing Service Reserve, under the control of the Nursing Board at the War Office, is intended to supplement the regular Service, in the event of war, either at home or abroad.

The Territorial Force Nursing Service, under the control of an Advisory Council at the War Office, is now thoroughly organized for home service in case of invasion. It has its own Matron-in-Chief, and Matrons of important Civil Hospitals throughout Great Britain, with the assistance of a committee, organize the hospital staffs and act as Principal Matrons in time of peace. Provision is made for a nursing staff of 120 members for each hospital, the full staff required being 92. All members are required to report to the Principal Matron once a year, who is responsible for the accuracy of the Roll.

*The Local Government Board.*—Poor Law Nursing in infirmaries and workhouse wards, under the Local Government Board, throughout the kingdom varies greatly in quality. In many of the larger infirmaries separated from the workhouses the standard of training is equal to that of the general hospitals, although the proportion of patients to nurses is high in all. In some of the smaller infirmaries attached to workhouses, and in workhouse wards, the difficulty of obtaining nurses is acute and the quality of the nursing suffers. Considerable friction is caused by the fact that the trained Superintendent Nurse is placed under the untrained Master and Matron of the Workhouse, and in many petty ways her life is often made so uncomfortable that many good nurses will not put in for these posts. It is to be hoped that some satisfactory solution of this perennial difficulty will be found by the Committee of the Local Government Board, which now has this question under consideration. Probably the best method would be to separate the offices of Master and Matron and, in the smaller workhouses, and to require the Matron to be a trained

nurse. She could then take her position as head of the nursing staff.

*The Board of Education.*—The School Nursing in Elementary Schools under the London County Council is a department of the work of the Board of Education.

*The Home Office.*—At present no Nursing Service is organized in connection with prisons under the Home Office, although some of the wardresses on duty in the prison infirmaries have had a certain amount of training. Yet it is certain that such a highly skilled Nursing Service is urgently needed in prisons, where, besides the acutely ill, many of those undergoing sentence are mentally unstable, feeble-minded, inebriate, and diseased. The organization of a Prison Staff of well-trained, specially picked women would be of great benefit both to the prisoners and to the Government Department responsible for their health.

The appointment of trained nurses as Prison Matrons is also a reform greatly to be desired.

*The Colonial Office.*—The Colonial Office does not employ nurses directly, but depends upon the Colonial Nursing Association to select those needed for service in Government Hospitals, and as private nurses in Crown Colonies.

*The Foreign Office.*—A limited number of nurses for British Protectorates are selected through the Foreign Office.

*The India Office.*—In connection with Queen Alexandra's Military Nursing Service for India there is a Nursing Board at the India Office which interviews and recommends candidates for appointment.

#### FEVER NURSING.

The Fever Nurses' Association, of which Dr. F. Caiger is President, is working to systematize the education of fever nurses and to obtain recognition for this experience as part of a nurse's training, and many nurses are showing their appreciation of the certificate in fever training given after examination to those who pass through the prescribed curriculum. Under a system of State Registration of Nurses a scheme of reciprocal training between general and fever hospitals, which the Fever Nurses' Association, as well as the Metropolitan Asylums Board, desires to see established, will doubtless be defined. Meanwhile the Association is doing good work in endeavouring to organize the training throughout the fever hospitals.

#### MENTAL NURSING.

The Asylum Officers (Employment, Pensions, and Superannuation) Bill, introduced into the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)