

## NURSING ECHOES.

*Truth* has taken up "Army Nurses Troubles," and states incidentally that the order to which we recently alluded, prohibiting mixed bathing under quite permissible conditions at Hong Kong, has been cancelled. That is wise.

*Truth* hears there is a good deal of dissatisfaction among the staff of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, and hopes by ventilating their grievances it may help to get them removed. We agree with the statement that "Discipline depends on organization, and if the organization is good the discipline will be good too." What is wanted in this Service is new blood in authority. The Nursing Committee is too cramped in its outlook.

*Truth* objects to confidential reports. "The Sister reports the staff nurse, the matron reports the Sister. . . . If the system is to continue it ought to be modified so as to prevent the official character of any staff nurse or sister being taken away behind her back without the lady concerned being given an opportunity of defending herself from attack." Quite so. In our opinion every complaint should be first made by a senior officer to the subordinate herself—nothing written of which she is ignorant. The secret *dossier* is an abomination.

*Truth* says "petty restrictions are placed on the private life of the ladies who are serving in the department. . . . Dancing is forbidden, and so also is smoking. What conceivable reason can there be for preventing young women of twenty-five years of age or more either dancing or smoking if it gives them any pleasure to do so? The matron-in-chief may make any rules she thinks necessary for the ladies of her department while on duty, but when they have done their work for the day, they ought not to be deprived of their rights to indulge in any innocent amusement which comes their way."

No one can disagree with this point of view. But we have heard of conduct on the part of military nurses, of which no one can approve. Perhaps rules have been twitched up to meet such cases. Much better cashier the frivolous few, than make the innocent suffer for the guilty.

An experiment of a very successful nature has been carried out this year in connection with the Bishop of Winchester's Diocesan Mission to Hop-pickers.

This experiment has taken the form of a very completely equipped camp hospital, which has been organized by the Winchester Branch (Hants 36) of the Red Cross Society, at the request of the Bishop, who felt the need of more trained medical help among the pickers in the hop gardens.

The camp, which was pitched in a field close to the old Parish Church of Binsted, Alton, consisted of three marquees, two caravans, two tents, etc.

One marquee was in constant use as a surgical out-patients' tent where no fewer than 360 dressings and treatments had been carried out up to the time of writing. These consisted chiefly of various injuries such as burns, cuts, strains, and considerable attention was necessary for sore eyes, hands and feet, coughs, diarrhoea, etc., etc. There were also several cases of midwifery attended in the hoppers' caravans and wigwams.

The two other marquees contained four beds for in-patients, which were found most useful for cases where the treatment was of such a nature that the nurse had frequent dressings to carry out.

There were two caravans, one of which was occupied by Miss Montgomery, matron in charge of the College Sanatorium, Winchester, and the other by Miss Brockner, both of these ladies being qualified midwives and trained nurses.

The second caravan was used by four lady members of the Hants (No. 36) Red Cross detachment. Two men members of this detachment have also been in constant attendance amongst the pickers, with first-aid outfits, and have dealt with a large number of slight injuries.

The remainder of this very complete miniature hospital consisted of store tent, kitchen tent, and range servants' tent, used by an old soldier and his wife, who carried out cooking and other duties.

The Bishop of Guildford visited the camp on his visit to the hop-pickers' mission, and expressed himself as much pleased with all he saw, and hoped that many more hospitals of the same excellent nature would be established by the Red Cross Society in the other hop-picking centres next year.

The annual Tennis Tournament between members of the nursing staffs of the six special hospitals in Birmingham was played off on Saturdays, September 13th and 20th, at the Nurses' Tennis Club ground, Sir Harry's Road, Edgbaston. The Cup was won by

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