

it is only the experienced woman who is sufficiently sure of her knowledge to be able to adapt herself quickly and efficiently, who can do good work.

An interesting collection of models, showing transport and first-aid expedients, and of photographs from the seat of war, was on view.

Miss George's clever recitation in the Somerset dialect was greatly appreciated.

Surgeon-General Kenny, who is retiring from the Northern Command, recently visited Serlby Hall, near Retford, to inspect the Auxiliary Military Hospital, established in England by Viscountess Galway, for receiving the injured and wounded in time of invasion. The hospital provides for eighty beds which can be ready for the reception of patients at twenty-four hours notice, the large entrance hall and banqueting hall the barracks and the bijou theatre being arranged as four wards. When General Kenny visited the hospital thirty beds were made up and occupied by patients, purporting to be suffering from such injuries as shell wound, lance wound, sword, and gunshot wounds.

General Kenny visited each patient and questioned the nurses as to the method of treatment. He expressed his pleasure at the work done and the knowledge displayed.

In the operating theatre, to which is added an annexe for the administration of anæsthetics, everything was prepared and sterilized as for an actual operation. The kitchen, which is conveniently near the wards, is well equipped, and Lady Galway, who is Colonel Commandant and has spent many hundreds of pounds in the equipment of the hospital, was warmly congratulated by General Kenny on her public spirit.

The Insurance Commissioners propose shortly to make regulations providing that expenditure by approved societies under Section 21 of the National Insurance Act, which permits a society to contribute to hospitals, dispensaries, and district nursing associations, should be treated as expenditure on sickness benefit, the State grant being made payable in respect of any sums so properly expended. Such contributions to institutions must, however, come from societies' ordinary benefit funds, which have no special margin for meeting this expenditure.

In the report to the House Committee of the York County Hospital by the Special Committee appointed to consider Sir Cooper Perry's report, the charges are all dealt with, and under

the heading of "Matron" the following statement is made:—

With regard to the strained relations between the Residents and the Matron, the Committee agree that the interests of the hospital must suffer from such a condition of affairs. They found that it was a state of things which, though not inevitable, is very commonly found to exist in hospitals. It was undoubtedly accentuated in the present case, but the result of the fuller information obtained by the Committee led them to the conclusion that the fault did by no means lie entirely with the Matron, and that during the time of the late residents her position was made one of excessive difficulty.

The Special Committee gladly bear testimony to the fact that the Matron has been most conscientious and hard working in the discharge of her duties, and entirely loyal to the hospital, and that her attitude in many instances was influenced by a desire to economise the pecuniary resources of the institution. They are of opinion that she has overworked herself, and in particular that it was unwise to take only a week's holiday last year instead of the full month to which she was entitled. The Committee also think that the Matron pays more attention than is necessary to minor details, and that it would be to her advantage in her work if she would delegate some of it to her assistants. The Committee recommend that the Matron should have full authority to engage sisters, and should report engagements to the House Committee at their next meeting.

The general consensus of opinion which the Committee gathered from the Honorary Officers was that the nursing staff is adequate, and that the nursing is on the whole satisfactory.

They make various other suggestions, the most important of which is that they strongly recommend that the House Committee should request the attendance of the residents and the matron at their meetings, so that they may have the opportunity of bringing before the Committee any matters they may think necessary.

We learn that the Matron of the Hospital has now resigned, and we feel sure much sympathy will be felt for her in the terrible anxiety she has passed through during the recent enquiry. The constant strain on many matrons who attempt to maintain efficiency where means are limited is not sufficiently recognised by those governing our hospitals. Thus it is often a very thankless task. We recommend matrons to carefully bring to the notice of their committees necessary reforms, even if they cost money, and to persist until they are made. Otherwise they may be called upon to bear the blame for faulty administration.

At an inquest held at Dorchester into the death of a gamekeeper, undergoing treatment

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