

intelligent reports. All this had helped to create nursing as a profession. Now nurses must have professional organization and self-government. They could not accomplish much without organization.

Miss Haldane said that she had recently been reading an essay by Sir Arthur Phelps who showed, in connection with the Civil Service how essential it was that every branch must be completely organized. This was equally true of nursing. The nursing service must be thoroughly organized. She had been feeling this more strongly since lately she had paid a short visit to America with Lord Haldane. She had only had a few hours in New York, but they spent them at Columbia University, and there discovered a thorough organization for the teaching of nursing. Those far seeing Americans had learnt that it must be brought into touch with the highest educational methods the nation could supply, and at the Teachers' College in connection with the University, under a Professor of Nursing, nurses were being trained to fit them for positions as heads of training schools. That was a step beyond what we had reached in this country. But it seemed as if this great profession for women must come into touch with the great educational institutions. It was for the members of the nursing profession to consider how that must be done.

Miss Haldane then enumerated the many branches of work in which nurses must now specialize, and referred to the system of preliminary training for probationers inaugurated at the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, by Mrs. Strong. She also strongly advocated that there should be a system of registering by the State what a nurse is. Her competence should be ascertainable, and this could never be arrived at unless there was some system of standardizing education.

Registration, which had recently been gained by the teaching profession, was proving an enormous boon, and nurses would find it the same.

In the profession of nursing, women had no rivals; they were mistresses of their destiny; but to achieve, they must join together. Union was strength.

#### NURSING IN THE ROYAL NAVY.

The Chairman then called on Miss Mary Clark (Superintending Sister in Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service), to read a paper, written by Miss Emily Dann, who could not present it in person, as she was on the high seas, on her way to Ceylon to be married. The acoustic properties of the hall proved so bad that eventually Miss Haldane, whose voice carried to the end read the paper (as she did also the paper on "Territorial Nursing," by Miss Sidney Browne). Miss Dann stated that the Naval Nursing Service was founded in the early eighties; and in 1902, Queen Alexandra became the President. As recently as 1910, improvements had been introduced, including an increase in the number of Nursing Sisters, higher salaries, the substitution of

linen uniform for the original serge one, and the creation of the rank of Superintending Sister. A reserve for war had also been formed. She said that naval men made ideal patients—cheery, plucky, and well-disciplined.

#### ARMY NURSING AND TERRITORIAL NURSING.

Miss Sidney Browne presented two papers on Army Nursing, one on the Regular Service, and one on the Territorial Force Nursing Service, of which she is Matron-in-Chief.

#### THE REGULAR SERVICE.

The speaker said that the nursing of soldiers by trained nurses in military hospitals was started by Miss Florence Nightingale, after the Crimean War. Like all good things, it met with a great deal of opposition at first, but the system won its way in spite of opposition, and to-day no one would think of opposing it. She therefore directed her attention to the present work of the Service, the method of joining, the prospects of promotion, and the difference between military and civil nursing.

#### DISADVANTAGES.

Among the disadvantages advanced by nurses as reasons for not entering the Military Service, Miss Browne mentioned the belief that the work in military hospitals, in time of peace, is not so good as in a civil hospital. She thought this a mistake. In the larger hospitals, in which the majority of nurses served, there was as good medical and surgical work as in any of the civil hospitals, and the nurse served under some of the best surgeons and physicians in the Kingdom. She also saw most interesting tropical diseases, and accidents of all kinds at Woolwich Arsenal.

Foreign service appeared a disadvantage to some nurses, but, if necessity arose, a nurse could come home very rapidly.

Slow Promotion was another objection advanced. It was true a Staff Nurse might have to wait some time, because very few Matrons and Sisters retired voluntarily, but all members of the Service had to retire at fifty-five, and might retire after twenty years' service if they wished. Therefore, if a Staff Nurse had the patience to wait she was bound to have a good post as Sister in time, with a very fair prospect of being a Matron in the Service, and retiring with a fairly good pension.

She did not think there were any other disadvantages. Some nurses might not like to have men under them instead of women, but most of the men were quite young, very willing and obedient as a rule, and in these days steady and reliable and under good discipline.

Amongst the advantages of military nursing, Miss Browne mentioned the opportunities it afforded of travelling and seeing other countries, the fact that the nursing work was now controlled by nursing experts, who were represented in the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)