

hesitated to assume such responsibility. The system was fundamentally wrong, and required reorganization. The whole Army Nursing Service should be co-ordinated directly under the War Office, and not deputed to a voluntary organization.

Miss Waind thought the matter was largely in the hands of the medical profession, who should refuse to work with untrained women unless they were controlled by a sufficient number of trained nurses. She knew of one instance in which this had been done.

Mrs. Walter Spencer warmly commended the work of the knitting brigade, and of sewing, as a most important part of women's work in the war. Think, she said, of the suffering there would have been if all had not done their best to make the men as comfortable as possible with warm and sufficient clothing. This work had been the salvation of many men. In it also domestic workers could take a hand. She was glad to say that she and every member of her household knitted for the soldiers. As to women's place in agriculture, girls could do well with flowers and at market gardening, but, in regard to farming, there were weeks and days when they could not go out to work in the fields. She thought managing the cows and sheep, in calving and lambing time, unsuitable work for women, and, as to milking, they would have to be in the milking sheds at 3 a.m., to have the milk ready for the early trains. Men were often up all night with the cows, and in lambing time the shepherd stayed near the animals in a hut for three weeks or a month at a time.

Miss Marquardt mentioned the recent experiences of a friend in France, where the women were conducting the whole of the agricultural work, doing the marketing, and sowing the seed for next year. They had gathered in the harvest and the grapes.

Miss Marsters thought that the holdings were smaller in France than in this country, and more easily worked.

Miss Cutler said that when she left Brussels, last September, to return to England, during a long drive, she observed women were tending the cattle, and ploughing with donkeys or mules, but many were working, doing men's work in the fields.

Miss Bickham described the work of women on a farm in Essex, which was very successful.

Mrs. Andrews believed it was quite possible for women to do agricultural work. If not, how was it possible for boys? Yet boys of thirteen had been allowed to leave school to replace the men on the farms. She refused to believe that she could not do the work of which

a boy of thirteen was capable. Abroad, women did a great deal. It was noticeable that the appeals in the papers for women to do agricultural work were mainly from women interested in the question, and not from employers. The farmers preferred boys, whose labour was cheap. In many instances where women did exactly the same work as men who had gone to the front, they did not get the same wages.

Miss Clara Lee spoke of the successful agricultural work of a Women's Co-operative Guild in Sussex. They were interested in animals, and the animals knew them.

Mrs. Holgate, who said she had been working in the "back blocks" in New Zealand, mentioned that the estates there were from 100 to 1,000 acres in extent. The most successful sheep farm she knew was kept by three women, one of them a trained nurse, who said her training was of the greatest value on the farm. On this farm they lost very few lambs. They lived on the proceeds of the poultry farm, and were able to put away all the money they got from the sheep.

In regard to the Red Cross system, Miss H. L. Pearse said that trained nurses found it impossible to work under untrained Commandants. The system was wrong. She could not imagine why the Army Nursing Authorities did not provide for sufficient expansion to meet the needs of the sick and wounded, instead of depending on a voluntary society.

Miss Marsters stated that she was Commandant of a Voluntary Aid Detachment, which included five trained nurses, with V.A.D. orderlies working under them. She thought that about thirty of the seventy enrolled would make good nurses if trained, and expressed the opinion that good probationers would in the future be secured from such workers.

Mrs. Andrews hoped this might prove true, and thus help to relieve the serious shortage of trained nurses from which institutions had suffered of recent years.

Miss Mollett having replied, the discussion terminated.

INDISPENSABLE FOR NURSES.

"The Medical Dictionary for Nurses," by Miss Amy E. Pope, published by Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 24, Bedford Street, Strand, London, W.C., which we recently reviewed in these columns, is evidently as much appreciated in Australia as by our reviewer, as we learn that a large edition (four figures) has been sold to the Commonwealth. We are not surprised. In our opinion there is nothing in the field to touch it. The price, 3s. 6d., brings it within the reach of every nurse.

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