

thought very bad indeed, and they did not agree with it.

The Coroner said he would forward the view of the jury as to the medical staffing of the hospital to the proper quarter.

A QUESTION FOR THE PUBLIC.

We are informed that the Sidney Hall Military Hospital, Weymouth, which is a hospital of 120 beds, has no resident Medical Officer or Matron, the Matron of the Royal Hospital (a hospital of 18 beds), looking in for a few hours daily.

The so-called Sister, in charge on the night in question, owned at the inquest she had no certificate, and we are informed that she is not a fully trained nurse. She has therefore no right to the title. She has now been superseded.

As the unreliable evidence at the inquest was calculated to injure the character of the dead, and to add to the pain of his widowed and grief-stricken mother, we desire to put on record the testimony of William Micking, sergeant, Royal Scots, who identified the body of the deceased. He said that Gribbin was a man of good character, with a clean sheet. He was a keen soldier. He was a sober man.

The whole case is a commentary on the Resolution passed by the National Council of Trained Nurses on December 3rd, 1914, and sent to the Secretary of State for War, and affords one more proof in support of the Statement submitted, by request, to the Director-General of the Army Medical Service.

The National Council of Trained Nurses petitioned the Secretary of State for War (whose Department is primarily responsible for the health and comfort of the troops) "to prevent . . . inefficient nursing, and the subjection of the sick and wounded to the dangerous interference of untrained and unskilled women, who have been placed in positions of responsibility for which they are not qualified, greatly to the detriment of the discipline in Military Auxiliary Hospitals, and the general welfare of the sick."

We ask the public to judge whether the system of nursing, as exemplified in the case under consideration, is an efficient system, calculated to provide the skilled care to which every sick and wounded soldier has a right. We may point out there was no resident Medical Officer, no resident Matron, no competent trained nurse in charge on night duty, and we ask all mothers and fathers who read the account of this case how they would feel if this poor man had been one of their own sons. True, his life might not have been saved,

either by skilled medical or nursing attention, but that is no reason why he should have been refused the shelter of the hospital to which he had been taken, and sent, with a fractured pelvis, described by Dr. T. Davys Manning "as broken to pieces," and other injuries, to die a lonely death in a guard tent, instead of receiving skilled care, and consequent relief of his terrible sufferings, at the hands of trained nurses.

Do not forget that this man was prepared to risk his life in the defence of the Empire, and that it is the duty of the public to insist that a system which makes such risks possible for our soldiers shall once and for all be re-organized.

The National Council of Trained Nurses are prepared to help to improve the present system of military nursing, and in a letter addressed last week to the Director-General of the Army Medical Service at the War Office, we, as President, requested that the following propositions might receive the consideration of the Army Council, and that we might be afforded the courtesy of a reply.

1. That a representative Committee shall be appointed to inquire into and report on the necessary reorganization of nursing in Military Auxiliary Hospitals.
2. That women with expert knowledge of the Nursing problems to be solved by the War Office may be appointed on to the Army Medical Advisory Board.
3. That a new section of the Department of the Sanitary Service of the Army may be organized in which the expert knowledge of women in domestic and nursing science, and their practical help, may be available.

We feel sure that those who read this "dreadful tragedy of errors" will realise that the War Office would do well to avail itself of the co-operation of experts on the Advisory Board in its attempt to organize women's professional work.

E. G. F.

THE RELIGIOUS ASPECT OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT IN RELATION TO WAR AND PEACE.

Those who had the privilege of attending the one-day Conference on this subject, convened by the Collegium, on the 22nd instant, had a rare intellectual and spiritual treat.

The speakers were earnest-minded men and women—thinkers, altruists; who had studied the causation and problems of peace and war from the threefold aspect of religion, sociology, and

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