

Rodier Heath, of Weymouth, stated in his evidence at the inquest.

You find here a second reason why we trained nurses do not answer your call. We refuse to work with and under untrained women, whose actions we cannot control and who do gross injustice to our patients, for which we are held responsible.

Since our sick and wounded soldiers have a first claim, a Nursing Board, acting under the authority of the War Office, might well take from all hospitals, institutions and private nursing bodies, a definite proportion of the nurses employed by them, leaving only a sufficient number to oversee the members of Voluntary Aid Detachments or other probationers, and to do the actual dressings for which these untrained women are not qualified.

We should then obtain for the military hospitals to be opened, a large number of fully competent nurses, together with second and third year probationers, already used to hospital discipline and hospital requirements. This suggestion was substantially made by Mr. W. J. de Courcy Wheeler, F.R.C.S.I. in the *Evening Herald* of March 30th.

3. It is also very probable that such a Nursing Board would receive applications from other countries, notably America, where the profession of nursing is in a very advanced state. It is not to be expected that nurses from the United States will come to our assistance further than they have already done. They are too well aware of the scandals which have taken place. The only one of whom I happened to know anything personally, returned to the States disgusted at the want of organization and the conditions of service with untrained women. Recently the representatives of more than 25,000 American nurses sent over to our National Council of Nurses a message of sympathy in the Council's efforts to improve the nursing of our wounded.

4. In regard to the staffing of the hospitals, for provisioning, working and servants' duties, the Nursing Board should appeal to the many women who have passed Domestic Economy examinations, and have since acquired a thorough knowledge of housekeeping and superintendence, thus setting free both Matron and House Sister from a great part of the work which usually devolves upon them and giving at least one and a half extra persons in each hospital for the actual nursing work.

5. Let all—nurses and staff—be paid a fair and honest salary, remembering that they are emergency workers. The scale of payment offered to Voluntary Aid Detachment first year probationers is abnormally high and will demand a corresponding payment in the higher grades of the service.

6. The matter is immediate, before the wounded come pouring in.

I should desire to add that I am heartily ashamed of the manner in which women of my class have dared to meddle in professional matters

which they do not understand, and of the gross ignorance which they have displayed to the world.

Yours faithfully,

ALBINIA BRODRICK.

War Office,
Whitehall, S.W.

8th April, 1915.

DEAR MADAM,—I am desired by Lord Kitchener to thank you for the Memorandum which you have been good enough to send to him, and which shall have careful consideration.

Yours faithfully,

H. J. CREEDY,

Private Secretary.

The Hon. Albinia Brodrick.

War Office,

London, S.W.

15th April, 1915.

MADAM,—I am directed by the Secretary of State to reply to your letter of the 5th instant, dealing with the supply of nurses.

I am glad to inform you that the Selecting Board for Nurses is not at present finding any difficulty in obtaining the services of those, which the institutions throughout the country can spare, for Military Service, provided they have the recognized certificates and are recommended by their Matrons.

These ladies are sent abroad with the hospitals, as these are formed, and are demanded by the authorities in France.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient servant,

ALFRED KEOGH,

Director General; Army

Medical Service.

The Hon. Albinia Brodrick.

April 21st, 1915.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge Sir Alfred Keogh's reply to my Memorandum to Lord Kitchener on the shortage of nurses. Sir Alfred states that there is no shortage, although the papers are publishing appeals from the War Office for a large number of nurses. I propose to publish the correspondence.

Yours faithfully,

ALBINIA L. BRODRICK.

The Secretary,

The War Office.

This correspondence took place at the beginning of April, and since that time it has been demonstrated that trained nurses are still available. We have never believed in a serious shortage in regard to the care of the sick and wounded, and are of opinion that, with good organisation at the War Office the nurses needed will be forthcoming. Added to this we must remember that if we reach the limit of available nurses in the United Kingdom we are not at the end of our resources. To this the splendid contingents of nurses which have arrived, and are arriving, from our Dominions beyond the Seas bear witness.

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