

## VIII.—QUESTION OF FINANCE.

In petitioning the Secretary of State for War to prevent the expenditure of the munificent subscriptions of the public on inefficient nursing we may emphasise that the public have subscribed, through the *Times* Fund alone, over £800,000 for the care of the sick and wounded, and they unquestionably intend that a very considerable proportion of that Fund should be spent on providing skilled nursing, and domestic management, in Military Auxiliary Hospitals.

1. It may here be noted that it is constantly asserted that none but nurses with a three years' certificate of training have been selected as nurses by the British Red Cross Society or the St. John Ambulance Association. Assuming this to be correct, it does not dispose of the fact that hundreds of Military Auxiliary Hospitals, approved by the War Office for the care of the sick and wounded, are overrun by members of Voluntary Aid Detachments of these societies working as nurses, and of its consequent responsibility for the inadequate standard of nursing maintained.

2. That young Commandants, responsible in these institutions for the expenditure of large sums of public money, are not required to have had any experience whatever in the management of a public institution (Appendices 2 and 4).

## CONCLUSION.

As Founder of the International Council of Nurses, and President of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, it may be assumed that I possess a somewhat extensive acquaintance with the organization of Trained Nursing. But, as I propose to conclude this Report with certain specific suggestions for the improvement and extension of Military Nursing, I may be permitted to explain that for the last twenty-five years I have taken an active part in Military Nursing reform.

In 1887, at his request, I drew up and presented to the then Director-General of the Army Medical Service—Surgeon-General Mackinnon—a scheme for a Volunteer Nursing Corps, the suggestions contained in which, though considered inopportune at that time, were, in a large measure, carried into effect some twenty years later by the formation of the Territorial Force Nursing Service.

In 1894 I submitted a scheme (which was adopted) to the Royal British Nurses' Association for the formation of an Army Nursing Reserve. Later, under the title of Princess Christian's Army Nursing Reserve, such a scheme was accepted by the War Office. Ultimately such a Reserve of nurses was added as part of the organization of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

In 1907 I studied the details of Military Nursing, while serving at the seat of war in Greece, as Hon. Superintendent of the Nursing Department of the National Fund for the Greek Wounded, and by request of H.R.H. the Crown Princess—now the Queen—of Greece, as Inspector of Nursing of the Military Hospitals in Athens.

In 1901 I prepared a Memorandum, presented by a Deputation from the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, to the Secretary of State for War on April 2nd of that year, for the re-organisation of the Army Nursing Service, the principal provisions of which were included, almost in their entirety, in the regulations adopted for Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service in September, 1901.

In 1909 I joined the Mansion House Committee of the Territorial Force Nursing Service for the City and County of London on its formation.

In September last I submitted to the Director-General the outline of a Scheme for Social Service in relation to Military Recruits, providing for (a) scientific domestic management; (b) personal hygiene; (c) preventive nursing. I was invited to elaborate this Scheme, but pressure of other duties has prevented me from complying with this request, and further consideration showed me that it forms only one section of a large and comprehensive Scheme for the Preventive and Active Nursing of the Soldier from the day he enlists to the day he is retired from active service.

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