

La Garde Malade has ceased publication during the war, greatly to the disappointment of many nurses trained in France, and neutral countries where French is known. Many friends will therefore be pleased to hear through this JOURNAL that the Protestant Hospital at Bordeaux has inherited a beautiful estate, and it is hoped some day to build a perfect new hospital at Talence, at the cost of nearly half a million of francs. Dr. Anna Hamilton, who interests her nurses in every department of hospital work, held a competition of plans designed by the staff, some of which were sufficiently good to show to the architect who has the building of the new hospital in hand. No doubt necessary consideration was given to sections for bedding and linen, mending, the care and cooking of food, cupboard room, and other domestic details, often scamped by male builders.

The nurses trained at Bordeaux are now greatly in demand as *infirmières-majors*, as those thus engaged have found the work strenuous to a degree, having so many untrained Red Cross workers to supervise, that holidays must be taken or breakdown results.

Mlle. Amory, who has been attending typhoid patients since the war broke out, at Gérardmer (Vosges), has received from the French Government the medal for nursing epidemics. Many nurses have taken up medical work in France, as few Red Cross workers care to nurse infectious diseases.

Her Excellency Lady Buxton has consented to be Patroness of the South African Trained Nurses' Association.

The branches of the Association are now considering the nomination of a professional President, as it is of course necessary to have an experienced Matron in this post. We note that the Capetown Branch have nominated Miss J. C. Child for this important position. This appears a wise choice, as Miss Child has for many years urged the nurses in South Africa to organize and form an Association, and she has on more than one occasion as Hon. Vice-President of the International Council of Nurses attended European meetings and taken the greatest interest in its work. Miss Child is a public-spirited pioneer, and that is the type of President required for every National Association.

Miss Liell, Matron of the Frere Hospital, East London, Cape Colony, has been unanimously elected President of the East London and Border Branch, in place of Miss Radcliffe,

who has sailed on the *Saxon* with several other Matrons and nurses for active service in Europe.

We are pleased to note that in the *South African Nursing Record* the hope is expressed that South Africa will take her place and be duly represented at the International Meeting at Copenhagen in 1918. "Here is an opportunity for the T.N.A., and we suggest the Association move in this matter at an early date."

NURSES AND INSURANCE.

The Council of the British Medical Association has reported that it has had brought to its attention the tendency on the part of some Approved Societies to employ nurses, in uniform, as sick visitors and has made representations to the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute to the effect that in the opinion of the Association such employment of nurses in uniform is detrimental to the best interests of the public and the nursing profession, for the following reasons:—(a) Because the system of employing nurses in uniform for such a purpose will tend to cause confusion in the minds of the public; and (b) because the functions of a nurse and sick visitor are essentially different, the former being actuated only by a desire for the welfare of the patient, while the latter is employed primarily in the interests of the Approved Society.

The Insurance Commissioners are now of opinion that a nurse is not compulsorily insurable if she receives a minimum fee of £2 2s. a week, with laundry allowance of 2s. 6d., and board and lodging, or £1 1s. a week in lieu of the latter, and that she herself receives the whole of her fees, presumably less the percentage payable to the co-operation which collects them.

At the last monthly meeting of the Board of Management of the Swansea Hospital, Colonel Morgan, Chairman of the House Committee, reported that when the nurses were sick they were nursed and maintained by the hospital, and the question arose what should be done with the money they were entitled to under the Insurance Act. The Committee thought it would be better to spend the money on the nurses in the way they desired.

Dr. Knight, in moving that the minute be referred back for further consideration, maintained that the method was illegal and improper. The sick pay should be paid to the sick person direct, and the Committee were proposing to spend it amongst those who were not sick. It was said that this was a voluntary arrangement. It was about as voluntary as when the soldiers of a regiment were invited to consider a suggestion of the colonel. Naturally every soldier endorses it, and where would he be if he didn't? When the Matron makes a suggestion naturally the nurses endorse it. The resolution was seconded and adopted.

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