

under such circumstances, and one of ourselves was often present. This nurse filled the position admirably, preparing instruments and arranging everything in an efficient manner. On many occasions she earned the congratulations of the medical staff for the excellence of her single-handed services.

"In the same surgical hospital another V.A.D. nurse made preparations for an operation which was expected to be trivial. Difficulties were encountered, nevertheless she met all our demands during a long and trying hour, rapidly expanding her arrangements with unruffled self-possession. This is by no means a solitary example.

"Many of the V.A.D. nurses were placed in charge of large wards of lighter cases. The discipline maintained by them, over patients and orderlies alike, was excellent; the wards were clean and tidy, and there was an air of added comfort and brightness not to be excelled anywhere.

"It was also a part of the duty of the V.A.D. nurses to take charge of ordinary wards during the absence of the Sister, and we know of no instance in which they failed to justify their trust.

"At the chief hospital for infectious diseases, with over 1,000 beds, they shared the work in the wards for enteric fever, dysentery, scarlet fever, diphtheria, &c., with the regular Staff Sisters. In many dangerous cases their devotion was heroic. As an evidence of the careful manner in which these women, though but partially trained, discharged their duties, observing the instructions for dealing with highly infectious cases, it is gratifying to record that in this particular hospital, no case of infectious illness arose amongst them, although exposed to the same risks as the more highly trained Sisters. Without the assistance of the V.A.D. nurses, the nursing could not have been efficiently carried on.

"Another feature which contributed in no small degree to the good influence of these young nurses was the cheerful and hopeful outlook which they imparted to the sick and wounded.

"We in no way desire to compare the work of the V.A.D. nurses with that of the fully trained and experienced Sisters, whose work needs no commendation from us, but we would simply record that, save for the inevitable few (who might have been excluded by a more careful initial selection), the great majority proved themselves highly efficient and worthy to be employed in any military hospital. Many of them are ladies of conspicuous refinement and culture, and some, to our knowledge, came out to help to nurse the sick and wounded at a considerable personal sacrifice.

"(Sgd.) C. A. BALLANCE, Col. A.M.S.

"PURVES STEWART, Col. A.M.S.

"CHARTER SYMONDS, Col. A.M.S.

"A. E. GARROD, Col. A.M.S.

"WILLIAM THORBURN, Col. A.M.S."

Little wonder well trained Sisters bitterly resent our sick and wounded soldiers being in the hands of untrained women and write home, "Nursing is a dead Art."

CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE NURSING PROFESSION.

THE DAVID LEWIS NORTHERN HOSPITAL, LIVERPOOL.

"MR. BENN WOLFE LEVY,

"To whose generosity the re-building of the Hospital was mainly due in 1900."

This inscription beneath the bust (in the entrance hall of the David Lewis Northern Hospital) of one of Liverpool's most generous benefactors epitomizes the history of the new building which has entirely replaced the old.

Situated just where it is most required probably, down by the docks, it meets the need it is intended to supply, and moreover fulfils the first of the "Laws" laid down by the Committee, namely: "This institution shall be called the 'David Lewis Northern Hospital,' and shall be confined as much as possible to severe accidents and acute cases."

It is a fine hospital and worthy of the traditions of the city in respect of nursing and philanthropy. Was not Liverpool the first city—in this and also other countries—to institute district nursing, that most inestimable boon to the poor? It is not too much to say it is the most valuable of the many branches of social service among nurses, which are the products of it. It is fitting that the honoured name of Rathbone should be on the Committee: a son, or grandson, no doubt, of the founder of that great humane organization. One of the principal features of this spacious hospital, and of which the authorities are very proud, are the fine wide corridors of green and white tiles, looking so cool and clean. Another is the circular children's ward. This looks far more like a model nursery than anything else. Both in furniture and decoration it is wonderfully attractive. There are toys of all sorts and sizes. Two splendid bears, large enough for a child to ride, prowl about the floor! A team of three rocking horses, like a troika, in a most invitingly prancing attitude, have no doubt borne many happy little ones on their backs. On the wall space between every window, and therefore over every bed, one of our immortal and ever-popular nursery rhymes is painted on a large scale—almost life size! The colouring is bright, but soft and harmonious. The general effect is most cheerful and fascinating, and a perfect joy to every fortunate little inmate. The *pièce de résistance*, however, is perhaps the charming statue of the little girl—Bertha David Lewis—who died in early childhood, and to whose memory the ward was built; it naturally bears her name. The little lady stands on a pedestal, just beneath the clock, looking down at a pretty pair of new shoes that she is wearing. Unfortunately the entrancing pictures on the walls are not shown in the photograph; probably they are the latest decoration.

Fifty beds in this hospital have been placed at the disposal of the Army Council for the treat-

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