

necessitate a much lower standard of nursing to cope with the large and varying number of wounded, and rough and ready methods that do not obtain in the civil wards, certainly not in training schools." Thus the V.A.D. " would have much to unlearn if placed after the war in civil hospitals on equal footing with a second or third year's nurse, . . . and only the steady progress through the first year's routine and discipline, with the carefully varied work to cover all branches can make a nurse helpful in her second year and responsible in her third year.

" If these ladies have any true love of the work, and have gained any real insight into nursing, they will desire to train fully, and raise themselves to the required standard, and not desire a noble profession to lower its standard to suit their terms, or provide a back door and a lift for the favoured of the public."

" V.A.D. nurses are drawn from all classes of society and number uneducated as well as educated among their ranks, and if recognition is given to one it must be given to all. And recognition, I take it, means that the full trust and confidence of the public are invited for those who have, for the main part, only seen the treatment of exceptional wounds and fractures, requiring, from their septic nature, unusual methods; and who will be called upon to nurse medical diseases they have but scant knowledge of, and diseases of women and children of which they are wholly ignorant. Surely this is an example that 'a little knowledge is a dangerous thing,' and a reason for begging the V.A.D. nurse who has found her calling to enter a training school and submit to the full training, and thus maintain the prestige of British nursing and the ideals of Miss Nightingale."

What a relief it is to read in the *Times* for once an expert expression of opinion on the nursing question, instead of sentimental twaddle or interested opinion expressed by those exploiting nurses in one form or another.

A correspondent writes: " The most remarkable instance has just come to my knowledge of the vagaries of War Office red tape; had I not had the story first-hand from a colleague, I don't think I could have believed it. This colleague has a daughter who has for many months been a " V.A.D." and has been doing cross-Channel journeys in hospital ships. Recently her ship was torpedoed, and it did not get into the papers; she (and everyone else) was saved, and the ship towed in. The other day her Matron told her she was entitled to certain allowances and suggested she should apply for them. She did so, and the reply came that she was no longer entitled to them because she had " broken her agreement." Quite at a loss to understand how she had done so, she wrote and said she was unaware of it and asked for information. The astonishing reply came that she had been torpedoed and had left the ship, so breaking her agreement. She was informed that now she had joined a new ship she

must sign a fresh agreement and start fresh!! Did you ever hear so astounding an absurdity? It's like the story of the man who was docked of his wages because he left his work by being blown up in an explosion."

Of course, such arrangements are astounding, but they are also unjust, and the victim would do a service if she insisted upon such an absurdity being rescinded. In our opinion, every nurse and V.A.D. who risks her life in cross-Channel hospital service should be paid a handsome indemnity, as no claim can be advanced for the expenses for a military funeral, if unfortunately she goes to the bottom as food for fishes!

Miss Amy Bland Hill, the popular Matron of the Bath War Hospital, had an enthusiastic reception after returning from London with the decoration of the Royal Red Cross. She was met by all the patients, nurses, and members of the staff who could possibly assemble, and was presented with a bouquet of red roses tied with the colours—red and blue—of the ribbon of her decoration. Miss Hill, who was naturally much pleased, suitably acknowledged this spontaneous manifestation of kind feeling.

OUR ROLL OF HONOUR.

In Monday's casualty list the following name appears:—

DIED.

TURTON, Staff Nurse A. M., Queen Alexandra's Military Nursing Service Reserve.

TRUE TALES WITH A MORAL.

OVERHEARD AT A NURSING CENTRE.

Trained Nurse 1: " Don't talk to me of Commandants. I have been twenty years a nurse and I have never been so chivied about and bullied, even in my probationer days, as I have been lately. I was on night duty part of the time, and when it was my night off this Commandant used to put two V.A.D.s in charge, and with serious cases too. There was an awfully bad case on one night when I was supposed to be off duty; he was on injections of hyoscine, so I stayed on till 10 p.m., and gave it him myself. Next morning the Commandant sent for me after I had gone to bed, and I had to get up and dress, and she flew at me, and asked what business I had to stay on duty without permission." (The eavesdropper, a nurse in mufti, longed to say, " More fool you to get up.")

Trained Nurse 2, smiling: " I found my Commandant quite nice. Nurse — who was there before me gave me a parting piece of advice—' Now mind you don't spoil the Commandant,' she said, ' I have got her into good order and mind you keep her in her place.' "

What hope of discipline in hospitals so organised? A well trained Matron in charge is the only remedy. But the War Office has made the fundamental error of placing untrained Commandants in charge of hospitals, and declines to recognise the mistake.

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