

THE REPORT OF THE SUPPLY OF NURSES COMMITTEE.

The report of the Committee appointed by the Army Council to inquire into the supply of nurses has been issued as we go to press, and can be obtained from Messrs. Wyman, Bream's Buildings, Fetter Lane, E.C. The Committee as finally constituted consisted of Mr. Bridgeman, M.P. (Chairman), Lord Knutsford, Sir Frederick Treves, Mr. Francis Curzon, Captain Boulton (Queen Mary's Hostel for Nurses), Mr. Morris (Secretary, London Hospital), Miss Becher (Matron-in-Chief, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service), Miss Sidney Browne (Matron-in-Chief, Territorial Force Nursing Service), Lady Airlie, the Matrons of Guy's, Royal Free, St. Thomas's, and St. Bartholomew's Hospitals, the Lady Superintendent, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, and the President of the Poor Law Matrons' Association, and Mrs. Furse (Commandant-in-Chief, Women's V.A.D.). Lord Knutsford resigned when the Committee was reconstructed, and later Sir Frederick Treves resigned, and was replaced by Sir James Fowler. Representatives of the Irish Nurses' Association and the Admiralty were subsequently added.

The terms of reference of the Committee were to ascertain "the resources of the country in trained nurses and women partially trained in nursing so as to enable it to suggest the most economical method of utilizing their services for civil and military purposes." The following are among the recommendations of the Committee:—

TRAINED NURSES.

1. That no more trained nurses can be obtained for military hospitals from institutions managed by the public health, lunacy, or Poor Law authorities, with the exception of the institutions recognized by the Local Government Board as training schools, or from district nurses, school nurses, or health visitors.

2. Small auxiliary hospitals should be restricted to the treatment of convalescent cases. No new hospital should be set up with less than 40 beds.

3. Secure all available probationers from training schools as they complete their full training.

4. Aim at a maximum proportion of one trained nurse to 14 beds in ordinary hospitals, and one to six beds in private hospitals for officers.

5. Appeal to private nurses, their employers and associations to volunteer for war work, offering compensation where there is serious financial loss, and securing a return of the nurses to their former position at the close of the war.

6. Ask the Dominions if they can provide an additional number of trained nurses, but abstain from recruiting in the United States* or other foreign countries.

* The report is dated January 24, 1917—before the entry of the United States into the war.

7. In a case of emergency employ probationers (including V.A.D. members) as nurses under a sister where they are approved by the matron-in-charge.

8. Increase the staff of all military hospitals, so as to ensure regular leave and more relaxation where required.

9. Give a bonus for every six months of service in military hospitals, with an increment of £1 for each period of six months after the first—to be paid on termination of service.

10. Provide better pensions in cases of permanent breakdown due to war service.

FOR TRAINED AND UNTRAINED NURSES.

11. Provide transport in covered conveyances where nurses have to live at a distance from the hospitals where they work, and in camp hospitals.

12. Insist on better accommodation for nurses where it is now inadequate. Provide a matron-inspector to look into the condition of all war hospitals.

13. Promise recognition of satisfactory service for all nurses working in all hospitals receiving sick and wounded soldiers.

14. Provide in all cases travelling expenses at reduced fares.

FOR UNTRAINED NURSES.

15. Provide cost of medical examination for all probationers, including V.A.D. members.

16. Relieve them of expense as regards uniform.

17. Furnish additional allowances where required for necessary expenses of members in V.A.D. hospitals.

18. Grade V.A.D. members so as to distinguish those who have had 13 months of approved service.

19. Establish hostels where V.A.D. members may reside and hear lectures, and from which they can go for daily training in civil hospitals.

20. Appoint a matron-inspector of V.A.D. Auxiliary and Private Hospitals for each Command in the United Kingdom, whose reports should be submitted through the Commands to the War Office for final action.

21. Make arrangements that the trained matron should be in charge of the nursing staff in V.A.D. Auxiliary Hospitals.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS.

22. Bring all the nursing authorities into touch by establishment of one central committee to act as a clearing house during war time.

23. Encourage the making of a census of all women suitable for nursing, and willing to undertake it for the period of the war.

We shall discuss this Report next week after due consideration.

A hen enters a ward at Bath War Hospital and lays an egg daily in a soldier's locker. The soldier, lying in bed, draws aside the curtain to enable the hen to enter her curious nest.

Will this patriotic hen receive the R.R.C.?

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