

THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY NURSING SERVICE.

Under the heading "Nurses required for Service Overseas" the Director-General of the Australian Army Medical Service has issued the following statement:—

Some time ago public notification was made that large numbers of nurses were wanted for service overseas with the Imperial forces. The following particulars may be of interest to members of the nursing profession, and the Director-General will be pleased if they can be published in the nursing journals of Australia.

Australia requires for her own hospitals overseas some 800 or 900 nurses. These nurses are entirely under Australian matrons and A.M.C. officers, and are controlled through Miss Conyers, the Matron-in-Chief, A.I.F., London, she being on the staff of Surgeon-General Howse, D.M.S., A.I.F.

One hundred and twenty nurses left early in the war to join the Queen Alexandra Imperial Nursing Service. From time to time complaints have been received that there was a difficulty with their pay to make ends meet, and there were other difficulties. No nurses are now sent from Australia for the Queen Alexandra Imperial Nursing Service.

Before arranging to send the large number of nurses which left recently, arrangements were made with the Imperial authorities that the nurses should all belong to the Australian Nursing Service, and receive Australian rates of pay, but be lent to the Imperial authorities for duty in their hospitals. It was also arranged that they would give the entire nursing of some hospitals to Australian nurses, would allow the A.N.S. to have their own matron and sisters, and be entirely responsible for the nursing in these hospitals, while the doctors and orderlies would belong to the Imperial forces. This was begun in India, where three hospitals and several hospital ships are staffed by Australian nurses, who are controlled by Australian matrons. Three large units recently sailed for Salonika under Australian matrons. Each will staff what is known as a double general hospital of 1,040 beds, and a fourth will sail shortly.

It had been hoped in all these hospitals to have given promotion to nurses now overseas who had been away for some time (in many cases two years), and all positions of sister and matrons were kept for them. Unfortunately, it was found that it was not possible to do this, and the Australian authorities in England recommended that matrons and sisters should be appointed in Australia, and that the units should leave complete. It was regretted that well merited promotion could not be given to nurses overseas. Most of the overseas nurses in Australia at the time were promoted. Many capable nurses have come forward who were competent to take positions as sisters, and many have been on duty in Australia for some time, but it was not desired to place them over the heads of those who have been a long time in service, so all the units sailed with a considerable number of vacancies for sisters, and

it is hoped that even now some promotion may be arranged by drawing on those who have served in India and Egypt.

A principal matron has been appointed in India, and a principal matron sent to Salonika. They are, of course, local appointments, and only affect the nurses in those districts.

As more nurses offer and as accommodation on ships is available they will be sent forward, therefore, nurses who are still anxious for service should send their names in at once to the principal matrons in each military district.

(Signed) R. H. FETHERSTON,
Surgeon-General,
Director-General A.A.M.S.

THE CANADIAN NURSING SERVICE.

An interesting dinner took place recently at the Criterion Restaurant to celebrate the arrival in England of the first contingent of Nursing Sisters of the C.A.M.C., just over three years ago, when 40 of the original contingent were present. Miss Smith, Matron of the Ontario Military Hospital, Orpington, was in the chair, and the guest of honour was Miss Margaret Macdonald, Matron-in-Chief, who was presented with a handsome bouquet by those present. In an interesting speech Miss Macdonald outlined the valuable work done by members of the Service, now over 1700 strong.

CARE OF THE WOUNDED.

HOSPITAL FOOD SUPPLIES.

We have received from the Director of Medical Services, Canadian Contingent, a pamphlet on hospital food supplies, in which, it is believed, for the first time instructions re administration, conservation and accounting of Hospital food supplies are brought together in pamphlet form, with the approval of the Director of Medical Services, Canadians, and are now promulgated for the strict observance of all concerned. These instructions are effective for all Military Hospitals in England subsisted at the public expense of Canada.

In this pamphlet of 47 pages are brought together all the regulations bearing upon food supplies of Hospitals, whether these be old-established or contained in recent Army Council Instructions, Canadian Routine Orders, &c., so that in a handy form everyone directly concerned in the diet and food of the invalid soldier, from the Hospital surgeons, Nursing Sisters and officers in charge of wards onwards, to the Officer Commanding, may have a clear understanding of his or her duties in respect of food and feeding.

The information here brought together is not easily at the disposition of those not belonging to the Quartermaster's staff and the Army Service Corps.

The pamphlet is interleaved, so that more recent Orders and Regulations may be inserted if necessary. This compilation should be found serviceable for Hospitals other than those under the D.M.S. Canadians.

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