

I did not carry out the order given, but I was dismissed for my failure to do so, without any right of appeal, as the 'Commandant is in absolute authority.'

"This was my third attempt at war work and, as I lost my civilian post which I had held for ten years, through the Commandant in question, is it surprising I was disgusted with war work, and again designate myself 'A Private Nurse'?"

We remind our readers that the story referred to is as follows:—

Commandant to Sister: "What is this man doing in bed?"

"Oh, he's an accident we had brought in late last night, suffering from concussion and shock."

"Well, why can't he get up?"

"I think he had better keep quiet till the ambulance comes to take him away; he still has a good deal of shock."

"Oh, give him a pair of crutches; he's not got shock in his feet, I suppose?"

Every well-trained nurse knows that in cases of concussion and shock, from whatever cause, the depression of the nervous system must be combated by complete rest in the horizontal position, and that the falling body heat must be corrected by the application of heat to the body surface—hot blankets, hot water bottles, and gentle friction. If an "electric" bed be available so much the better; the patient is placed on it for some hours to get thoroughly warm, the foot of the bed is raised on blocks, to promote venous circulation, and cause a flow of blood to the brain. Mustard, in the form of plasters or leaves, is often applied to the spine, the nape of the neck, and the calves of the legs.

When reaction sets in, the temperature, which was at first subnormal, rises, and the patient may get very restless. Absolute quiet is an essential factor in the treatment of these cases, which require very careful watching and nursing.

The fact revealed in this case—by no means an isolated one—of interference with treatment by a Commandant is very serious. It is quite possible that the patient's life may have depended on the rest and quiet secured to him, but the firmness of the trained and skilled woman in safeguarding his interests cost her her post, and illustrates the insecure and dangerous position of a trained nurse who accepts service in a subordinate position to an untrained Commandant.

Further, if a trained nurse has no right of appeal, her position is worse than that of the General Service Member of a Voluntary Aid Detachment whose terms of service include the following clause:—

"Complaints must invariably be made in writing, and must in the first instance be made to the officer under whom the member is working. If she receives no redress, she can write to the Commandant-in-Chief, Devonshire House."

We should advise our correspondent to place the facts before Members of Parliament likely to investigate them and take action, in order, if

possible, to protect other sick men from such ignorant interference. The primary responsibility, of course, rests with the War Office, which upholds the method of organisation which puts untrained Commandants in positions of authority over trained workers in military hospitals.

THE FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

Several nurses have been requisitioned by Med. Chefs in France. Sisters will be seen by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick next week at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., by appointment.

Qualifications.—Candidates must hold a three years' certificate of training in a general hospital, and must have a fair knowledge of French.

Age.—Twenty-six to thirty-five.

Good health is indispensable as the conditions of service are necessarily somewhat severe in winter.

Two Nurse-Masseuses are urgently required. Applications in writing, stating qualifications, should be sent to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick at the above address, when interviews with suitable candidates will be arranged.

THE EDITH CAVELL HOMES OF REST.

We have received from the Secretary of the Edith Cavell Homes of Rest for Nurses the following letter which speaks for itself:—

DEAR MADAM,—You will remember bringing us a telegram from the Honourable Mrs. Corbet, with regard to lending to this Institution The Raven House, Adderley, Market Drayton; and you brought also a number of your journal, which contained a picture of the house. It will interest you to know that the Council very gratefully accepted Mrs. Corbet's very kind offer; and that The Raven House will be opened next Monday as one of the Edith Cavell Homes of Rest for Nurses.

Our new Home at Coombe Head, Haslemere, was opened last Monday, on which date the temporary Home at Southwold was closed.

The Suffolk Branch of the B.R.C.S. has arranged to subscribe £100 a year to maintain a room at Coombe Head, to be called the Suffolk Room. The occupant of this room will be nominated by the Suffolk Branch, and will be a nurse resident or working in the County of Suffolk.

Yours very truly,

ETHELDRED ST. BARBE,

Organizing Secretary.

25, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

THE VEE LIGHTNING PIN BANDAGE FASTENER.

We commend to the attention of all engaged in war work the "Vee" four seconds Lightning Safety Pin Bandage Fastener. It is obtainable in various sizes, and a short trial will demonstrate its value. It can be obtained from Messrs. Allen & Hanburys, Ltd., 48, Wigmore Street, London, W. 1.

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