

We sent him the following enquiry on March 14th:—

431, Oxford Street,
London, W. 1.

SIR,—The Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING begs to acknowledge your communication intimating vacancies in military hospitals for trained nurses.

She would be greatly obliged if you will be good enough to inform her if what is known as the "Serf Clause," is still included in the contract which military nurses have to sign, a copy of which I enclose.

Many well-educated trained nurses are compelled to deny themselves the privilege of nursing our sick and wounded in the Imperial Army Nursing Services, because they decline to submit to such an unjust and dangerous contract.

Yours faithfully,
M. R. ANGEL,
Secretary.

To the Secretary of the War Office.

To which we received with sincere satisfaction the following reply:—

War Office,
Adastral House,
Victoria Embankment, E.C. 4.
21st March, 1918.

DEAR MADAM,—I regret the delay in answering your letter of March 14th, but I knew that this question of the contracts was under consideration. I find that the wording of the clause you mention is being altered, and a new contract being printed.

Yours faithfully,
A. B. SMITH,
for Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.I.M.N.S.

The Editor,
The British Journal of Nursing,
431, Oxford Street, W.1.

We have not yet received a copy of the revised Clause, but we hope it may be of such an equitable nature that well-trained British nurses will be able to sign it without loss of self-respect, and thus be able to serve with heart and soul their beloved countrymen in this their great hour of need.

It will be a relief to us to be able to advise them once again to do so. Let us hope that under the new administration a more enlightened system is to be inaugurated and unreasoning autocracy discouraged in the Army Nursing Services.

STOP PRESS NEWS.

A SERIOUS MISTAKE AT THE WAR OFFICE.

As we go to press, we have received the following letter from the Nursing Department at the War Office:—

War Office,
Adastral House,
Victoria Embankment, E.C. 4.
March 25th.

DEAR MADAM,—With reference to my letter of the 21st inst. and the new contract that was being printed, I regret so much that I have made a mistake in telling you that the clause you mentioned was being altered. It was another paragraph that was altered, and it has not been considered advisable to delete the paragraph you mention.

Believe me,
Yours faithfully,
A. B. SMITH
for Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.I.M.N.S.

To the Editor,
The British Journal of Nursing, W. 1

This letter corroborates the statement that the Nursing Board of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, and the Matron-in-Chief approve the wording and policy of the Serf Clause in the Contract Nurses have to sign, as, having had it under consideration, they have not considered it advisable to "delete the paragraph."

THE NURSING BOARD.

- President.*—Queen Alexandra.
- Vice-President.*—The Dow. Countess Roberts, C.L., R.R.C.
- Chairman.*—The Director-General, Army Medical Service, Lieut.-Col. T. H. J. C. Goodwin, C.M.G., D.S.O.
- Member of the Advisory Board.*—Major Sir J. R. Bradford, K.C.M.G., M.D.
- The Matron-in-Chief.*—Miss E. H. Becher, R.R.C.
- Matrons of Civil Hospitals.*—Miss R. Cox-Davies, R.R.C.; Miss A. Lloyd-Still, R.R.C., C.B.E.
- Members Nominated by Her Majesty Queen Alexandra.*—The Countess of Airlie, Viscount Knutsford.
- Secretary.*—Miss E. M. McCarthy, R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief.

It now remains for the public to demand fair-play for the Sisters and Nurses in the Imperial and Territorial Nursing Services. They pay the taxes which provide their service. It is their duty to protect the servants of the State.

THE IRISH NURSING BOARD.

A meeting of the Irish Nursing Board was held on March 22nd, in the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin. Lieut.-Colonel Sir Arthur Chance was in the Chair, and there was a good attendance.

It was decided to alter the Bye Law *re* the election of Board, so that all nurse members retire every three years and be eligible for re-election.

The following four trained midwives on the Register were appointed to act on the Conjoint Committee *re* the Midwives' Representation on the C.M.B.:—Miss Rhind and Miss K. Kearns (Dublin), the Hon. A. L. Brodrick (co. Kerry), and Miss C. J. Craig (Londonderry).

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