

the discharge of her maternal duties. They are both equally entitled to every consideration.

He again urges that "if this consideration has been fully given to the case of the soldier, it is an injustice not to accord similar privileges to the civilian." The medical treatment of mental disease must be freed from all unnecessary legal shackles and indignities. The question is no longer a theoretical one but an urgent practical one. In view of what has been done for soldiers, medical men will not accept the assertion that the adoption of similar measures is impossible for their patients. It is intolerable that the lives and happiness of people at the present day should be marred by a certain interpretation of an Act sixty years old, suitable for conditions of society which are now non-existent, yet determining present-day views and problems of medical treatment which were unthought of when our forefathers passed the Act. The law very properly is not in advance of public opinion, but it is a most unwholesome condition when it lags so far behind as do some of the procedures in lunacy.

(To be concluded.)

THE "SERF CLAUSE."

In reply to a letter sent by Miss Beatrice Kent to the new Director-General Army Medical Service she has received the following polite and reasonable reply, the tone of which is a striking contrast to those which have issued from this department in the past, whether addressed to the D.G. or Matron-in-Chief:—

War Office, Adastral House,
Victoria Embankment, E.C. 4.

April 2nd, 1918.

DEAR MADAM,—Your letter of yesterday's date just received.

I was aware of the Clause in the Contract signed by members of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, which you quote. The Clause is identical in terms with that signed by Medical Officers taking a temporary commission, a copy of which I enclose.

I had not received any complaints from members of the Nursing Service as to this Clause, nor had I heard dissatisfaction expressed by Temporary Commissioned Medical Officers. In either case, if the Officer or Nurse were dissatisfied with the decision arrived at, Section 42 of the Army Act provides for the right of appeal to the Army Council, and the case in question would receive every possible consideration.

I am extremely busy at present, so please pardon the brevity of this letter, which, however, I think states the matter as it stands at present.

I was not personally responsible for drawing

up the Agreement in question, and was not aware that it caused dissatisfaction.

I am, Yours truly,

T. H. J. GOODWIN,
Lieutenant-General. D.G., A.M.S.

Miss Beatrice Kent,
Trained Nurses' Protection Committee.

We note with surprise that members of the learned profession of medicine are compelled to sign the "Serf Clause," and give Lord Derby and the Director-General power to discharge them at a moment's notice without any compensation whatever.

But, although the indefensible principle remains, as medical officers are paid at the rate of 24 shillings a day (£8 8s. a week) instead of about 2s. 2½d. a day (or 15s. 3½d. a week)—the limited remuneration of a Staff nurse—they would not be starved in the gutter, as a nurse might be if summarily discharged in a foreign land, or even at home.

Let us hope one of the first actions of the new Army Medical Advisory Board will be to consider this degrading clause both for doctors and nurses, and adapt it to the class of persons—very valuable public servants—to whom it is intended to apply.

We hope, though late in the day, that the members of the Nursing Boards will remove this slur from the Army Nursing Services. If the titled women and Matrons, together with the Matrons-in-Chief who compose these Boards cannot maintain discipline without penalising rules, then let them resign, and make room for those who have some respect for the status of our military nurses, and the Nursing Profession as a whole.

THE NEW ARMY MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD.

IMPORTANT TO WAR NURSES.

The Secretary of the War Office announces that the Army Medical Advisory Board has been reconstituted as follows, on the expiration of the term of service of the former members:—

PRESIDENT.—Lieutenant-General T. H. J. C. Goodwin, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

MEMBERS.—Major-General Sir B. E. Dawson, G.C.V.O., C.B.; Major-General Sir B. G. A. Moynihan, C.B., F.R.C.S.; Colonel W. H. Horrocks, C.B.; Colonel Sir R. Jones, C.B., F.R.C.S.; Lieutenant-Colonel Sir H. J. Stiles.

SECRETARY.—Mr. E. T. Gann.

It will be seen that the Board has been reduced in size.

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee it was agreed to support the Amendment to the Education Bill proposed by the Workers' Educational Association as follows:—

NURSERY SCHOOLS.

"That the establishment of a sufficient number

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