

CARE OF THE WOUNDED.

Hearing from Lady Plumer that the troops under General Plumer's command in Italy were in great need of warm comforts, the Queen instantly commanded that all the branches of Her Majesty's Needlework Guild be made acquainted with the needs of the men in Italy, with the result that since the appeal was made in the middle of December 24,000 gifts of woollen goods have been sent to Italy, and parcels are still being forwarded.

On the motion for the adjournment of the House of Commons, Mr. Smallwood had the warm sympathy of members in replying to Lord Derby's remarks—made at a luncheon party instead of in the House of Lords—on the tragic story of his two soldier sons. He stood by his former statement that the son who took a medical certificate from Sir Thomas Barlow to the War Office was treated with scant respect. In a moving passage, which deeply impressed the House, he repeated his complaint that he was not allowed to stay with his elder son in hospital on the last night of his life. He said boldly that Lord Derby had utterly failed to realise the strength of public opinion on the larger questions involved. In the meantime what has been done by the Nursing Board at the War Office in reference to the "angry" Matron who refused to permit Mr. Smallwood to remain with his dying son?

Lord Sligo, Chairman, and Lord Knutsford, Vice-Chairman of the Country Host Institution, appeal on behalf of discharged soldiers, suffering from shell shock, for offers of hospitality in the country. Hosts within easy reach westwards of London are much needed. The host incurs no medical responsibility for his guest, but must have a good-sized garden or farm, where the patient can be given light outdoor work. Those who are willing to become hosts, or desire further information, should communicate at once with the Hon. Sec., Country Host Institution, 13, South Eaton Place, S.W. 1.

Messrs. Bovril, Ltd., are running the Euston Free Buffet for Soldiers for a week.

RESIGNATION.

The resignation of Miss M. E. Ray, Sister-Matron of King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, S.E. 6, creates a vacancy in one of the most desirable appointments in the nursing world.

The nurse-training school at King's has great and honourable traditions, and the high standards of work and professional ethics maintained by the late Miss Katharine Monk, during her long term of office, are still distinctive of its graduates.

We hope the lady appointed will be one who is inspired by, and will carry on its traditions.

A PRACTICAL STANDARD OF NURSING.*

By ETHEL GORDON FENWICK.

(Concluded from page 79.)

TEACHING SISTERS.

The next point to discuss would be: What should be the standard of nursing in the wards? One great defect in our present system is the lack of a teaching qualification for Ward Sisters. There is, at present, no test of a Nurse's ability to train Probationers as well as to nurse the sick, and the power of imparting knowledge systematically is by no means a universal gift. Some of the best Nursing Sisters I know are the worst teaching Sisters, and to be qualified to fill such a position a woman must possess the combination of the two arts. Would it be possible for future Sisters to act as teaching Sisters in preliminary Nursing schools—attached to their own hospitals? This would give them experience before having almost complete charge of the training of Probationers. The old system of promoting an inexperienced woman to be a Sister, because she was a woman of quality or of means, has nearly passed away, and will, no doubt, receive its *coup de grace* from the Matrons' Council.

THE MAKING OF MATRONS.

Again, the vast importance of the personality and expert knowledge of nursing and domestic management in all its details of the woman who is to act as Matron and Principal of a Nursing School cannot be over-estimated. What of her training? Can we recognize as satisfactory the manner in which Matrons are now selected and appointed—by Committees entirely composed of men—who have no knowledge of her work, and are, therefore, very often incapable of judging justly of her qualifications? Men usually judge women by their appearance, and is it not an open secret that a pretty face and a smart figure is preferred before a more worthy, if less attractive, candidate? And have we not all felt convinced that some of the very best women we know have been passed over by this surface selection? I will say little of selection by favour; that is another danger in these days of keen competition. I am told on good authority that a Matron was lately appointed to a county hospital upon the telegraphic recommendation of the chairman of a metropolitan hospital at which she was a sister—and this the night before the day of appointment, and after the date for receiving applica-

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