

viding healthy and sufficient accommodation for the resident staff is a hopeless task, and although times are far from flourishing on Tyneside £138,000 of the £150,000 appealed for in support of the Royal Infirmary has already been donated.

We always wish when our "Exchanges" come to hand we had time to read them thoroughly, as they arrive from all parts of the world. There is no doubt that the palm must be awarded to U.S.A. where nursing journalism is concerned.

The January *Pacific Coast Journal of Nursing* is specially interesting, the chief feature being the "U.S. Government Nursing Services," opening with a short report of the American Red Cross, and containing a charming new portrait of Miss Clara D. Noyes, R.N. Director, looking younger than ever. The special regulations of this Service were made in 1905, by Congressional enactment, and provide for a corps of thoroughly trained registered nurses, and we learn that in the files of this Service at National Headquarters in Washington are found complete and up-to-date records of over 51,000 graduate nurses, who tacitly acknowledge their allegiance to an organisation that has for its primary object "Service to Humanity."

The same high standard is maintained in the Red Cross Service in Denmark, and we still lag behind in England, being content apparently with a V.A.D. Service, controlled by amateurs. It is high time that we advanced in this particular, and organised a Red Cross Service of Registered Nurses, under professional control.

After our experience of weak spots in our Imperial Military Nursing Service, after the Great War, we voiced the need of "rank" for military nurses. This progressive step was of course not taken, and we remain as we were.

Turn, however, to the Nurse Corps, United States Army, which dates from 1898. We find that by virtue of an Act passed in June, 1920, granting relative rank to members of the Corps, the nurse has been accorded her recognised place in the service. While Army nurses are not commissioned officers, their military standing corresponds to that of commissioned officers, a distinction, we are told, that has greatly dignified their status and increased their privileges. To be eligible for this Corps, the applicant must be a graduate of an accredited school for nurses, and a Registered Nurse. Eleven years after our Nurses' Registration Acts have been in

force, our Nursing Board at the War Office ignores the provisions of the Registration Acts at will!

Major Julia C. Stimson, R.N., known to many colleagues "on this side" for her international sympathies in nursing affairs, is Superintendent, United States Army Nurse Corps, and from her portrait on this page, which appears in the *Pacific Coast Journal of Nursing*, it will be realised that the value of "rank" and "registration" will be recognised and upheld by her in support of discipline and efficiency.

The Navy Nurse Corps, U.S.A., of which Miss J. Beatrice Bowman, R.N., is Superintendent, receive the same pay and privileges as are provided for the Nurse Corps of the Army, but necessarily the work, duties and stations to which they are assigned differ in many details. The members of the Navy Corps take a very active part in the instruction of the men who are their co-workers. Training schools for native women are conducted in connection with naval hospitals in the Virgin Islands, in Guaru and in Samoa. There also the Navy nurses are instructors and supervisors.

The U.S.A. Government Services also include a Public Health Service, a Veterans' Bureau, and an Indian Service. It made its first treaty with Indian tribes in the time of George Washington. The history of the pioneer nurses among Indians has still to be written. The supervisor of this Service, Miss Elinor D. Gregg, R.N., to judge from her portrait, would give us a very sympathetic story.

The B.B.C. announces further talks on "The Invalid's Day" arranged for February:—

February 13: Amusing the Invalid Child, by Mrs. Owen O'Malley. February 20: The Invalid's Food, by Sister Simmonds. February 27: Making Bed Comfortable, by Sister Simmonds. Sister Simmonds is a Sister at the London Hospital.

TERRITORIAL ARMY NURSING SERVICE.

The Matron-in-Chief, Territorial Army Nursing Service, requests that all members of the Service, who have not already done so, will now send their enrolment parchments to their Principal Matrons, in accordance with paragraph 4 of the Instructions on the parchment.

Members who desire to undergo 7 days' training during 1931 should notify their Principal Matrons as early as possible.



MAJOR JULIA C. STIMSON, R.N.,
Superintendent, United States Army Nurse Corps.

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