

The Queen recently paid a visit to her regiment, the Queen's Bays 12th Dragoon Guards, at Tidworth, and presented to them a new Standard. In the precincts of Delhi barracks where the military hospital is situated, a number of military Nursing Sisters in their attractive red capes were lined up, under the Matron, Miss C. L. Robinson, together with about 30 patients in hospital blue. The Queen, who was expected to pass slowly along stopped her car, and after Miss Robinson had been presented to her, got out and went along the line before continuing her journey—a gracious act of recognition sisters and patients deeply appreciated. The "pukka" red cape is irresistible.

The Ministry of Health is kept busy dealing with nursing conditions. A circular has recently been issued to local authorities bringing to their notice several of the recommendations of the Inter-Departmental Committee. Many of these recommendations — in force in many hospitals—are admirable. We all approve of reasonable comfort in the home, better food and more appetising cooking—shorter hours of strain and more fresh air. The circular recommends all these improved conditions — and more besides.

It sets forth that the accommodation in the nurses' home should reach a proper standard of comfort. Permission to live off the premises of the hospital might be more freely given, particularly if married nurses are in future (as is proposed) more widely employed.

Nursing staff, including probationers, should as far as possible be relieved of domestic work by the employment of wardmaids and orderlies.

Unreasonable restrictions should be removed. All hospitals should have a timetable showing "On duty" and "Off duty" times for at least a fortnight in advance, and nurses should have not less than four weeks' annual leave, with proper notice well in advance.

The standard of catering for the staff should be improved; more care should be devoted to nurses' health.

These things can all be done no doubt. It is only a question of cash. The Ministry must now state where the money to finance improvements is to come from.

The Minister of Health announced in the House of Commons on July 28th the terms of service under which trained and assistant nurses will be employed, for the treatment of casualties in war-time.

It has now been decided, he explained, to place the nurses of the Civil Nursing Reserve under the conditions of a corps. They will receive standard rates of pay in war-time wherever they serve:

Trained nurses £90 a year plus board and lodging.

Assistant nurse. £55 a year plus board and lodging.

Trained nurses in charge of wards will have an additional allowance of £20 a year.

These are "resident" rates, *i.e.*, the pay is in addition to board and lodging. There is also free laundry or an allowance of 3s. 6d. a week instead.

Where nurses are not provided with board and lodging an additional sum of one guinea per week will be payable.

The Matrons of the leading nurse-training schools in London, sector Matrons for London under the Government emergency scheme have, through the press, expressed their concern for the supply of trained nurses in war,

and appeal to their colleagues to join the Civil Nursing Reserve without delay.

The appeal is made to trained nurses who have no other war-time obligations in their professional capacity, such as married nurses, retired nurses and nurses in private practice, as all trained nurses should realise that in case of war, nursing will be their best contribution to National Service.

Nurses wishing to enrol should write or apply personally forthwith to the Central Emergency Committee for the Nursing Profession, Romney House, Marsham Street, London, S.W.1, where, we are pleased to note, Miss Coulthurst, an experienced Matron, has at last been appointed to help and advise about the Reserve.



Photo :]

[Keystone Press

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN AT THE GARDEN PARTY, GROVE HOUSE, REGENT'S PARK.

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