

MISS ELIZABETH MARTIN, R.R.C., S.R.N., F.B.C.N.

By the election of Miss Elizabeth Martin, R.R.C., S.R.N., F.B.C.N., who was trained at Leeds General Infirmary, to a seat on the Council of the British College of Nurses, the Council is to be congratulated on having the services of a colleague who has had wide experience, and who is keenly interested in nursing affairs. Miss Martin, previous to her appointment as Matron of Wood Green and Southgate Hospital, a position she has held since 1920, rendered distinguished service to her country during the Great War 1914-1919, when she was mentioned in Despatches, in recognition of which she was awarded the Royal Red Cross.

Miss Martin has a forceful and charming personality which commands the loyalty and affection of her fellow workers, in and outside the hospital over which she has presided for so many years, and in these days of expediency to stand courageously for right is an immense asset in professional and public work.

ANOTHER VALUABLE GIFT.

At the last Council Meeting of the British College of Nurses, held July 15th, 1939, a pamphlet was given written by Miss Florence Nightingale.

Army Sanitary Administration and its Reform under the late Lord Herbert. By Florence Nightingale.

Read at the London Meeting of the Congrès de Bienfaisance, June, 1862.

This pamphlet is a wonderful testimony to the character and splendid organisation of Lord Herbert when Secretary of State for War, but through all the leaves of the pamphlet can be seen the masterful hand of the writer, Miss Florence Nightingale. Her genius for statistics is only too well known, but she gives all the praise to Sidney Herbert for all the splendid reforms in the army. "It has been well and truly said that in long wars the real arbiter of the destinies of nations is not the sword but pestilence."

Until the Crimea war the rank and file of the army was so little cared for, perhaps through forgetfulness or lack of thought that the soldier after all is a human being and subject to all the ills that follow on wet, cold and want of shelter, bad food and water, and intemperate habits. These evils were brought before the War Office and when all the horrors became known Queen Victoria had formed a Royal Commission on the "Sanitary State of the Army." Three highly qualified men were chosen to act, Dr.

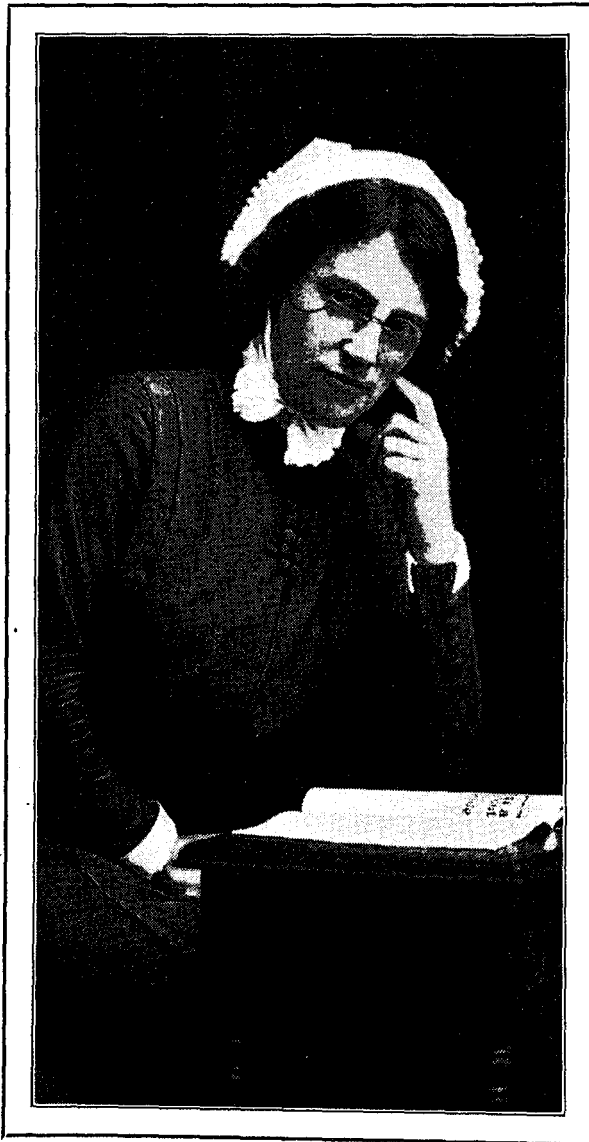
Sutherland, Dr. Garvin and Mr. Rawlinson, and to report to the Committee set up to deal with their report. They found the conditions in the Crimea very bad and even worse than they expected. Sir Sidney Herbert had consented to act as Chairman to this Commission. It was seen that in the army, guards regiments, the death rate was more than double the civil population, but at the time of Sidney Herbert's death it was less.

Lord Panmore, after Sidney Herbert's report and with his advice, ordered the Sub-Committee to carry out the reforms recommended.

Barrack and Military Hospitals went under complete change. Nothing was forgotten, "not even the dear animals"—the stables, better sanitation and ventilation—also more consideration.

It was the labour of the same Commission that it should include the Mediterranean stations, and it was hoped would be credited to the West Indies and Canadian stations as well, which wanted looking into. It was remarkable after the reforms had been carried out, how the health of the army improved. More care was to be given to the cooking, better stores, etc., so the men could have their meat roasted instead of always being boiled. School of cookery for military purposes was formed 1857 to 1858. New code of regulations for Medical Officers; the Sanitary Service was introduced into the army regulations. Many of the young doctors who went out to the Crimea had had so little experience and had never dressed a serious wound. Some of these doctors were only between the ages of 20 and 21 years. In the last Chinese war all Sir Sidney Herbert's reforms were carried out, with the result that the mortality including the wounded was only 3 per cent. per annum. The "constantly sick" in Hospital was about the same as at home. In the former Chinese War, the 26th Cameronians, a "total abstinence" regiment, went out to China, one of the finest and most healthy in the British Army, was landed at Chusan, 900 strong, and left to their fate without sanitary care. In two months only 30 men could be got together. The Indian Army was next to be looked into, with its enormous death rate. Lord Herbert undertook the Presidency of the Royal Commission, but was obliged to retire and to give it up and hand it over to Lord Stanley in 1861, on account of official business and failing health, but not before many reforms were well advanced.

The Committee recommended the barracks to be made more home-like and better ventilated, libraries, reading



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New Member of Council, British College of Nurses.

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