

have thrust through Parliament, not only an unjust Act, but created a situation of vulgar intolerance in nursing ranks.

One fact is irrefutable, and that is, that so long as Rule 19 in the Acts compels Registered Nurses to finance a system of de-grading their professional status without their consent, they are treated as serfs politically, to the shame of English Law.

Since our last issue we have had the privilege of paying a visit to the Middlesex Colony, Shenley, Herts, where we were deeply impressed with the spacious environment and with the humane spirit which apparently inspires the supervisors of every department. Here, in villas over some miles of a splendid estate, are housed, cared for, and instructed, mentally deficient men, women and children, and the sick provided with highly-skilled nurses, many with double qualifications of Registration under the inspiring supervision of the highly-qualified Matron, Mrs. Lediard, and the very able and sympathetic Medical Superintendent, Dr. E. D. Taylor.

We are not attempting in this brief note to do justice to this wonderful work, as we hope at an early date to publish an article of some length describing the salient features of this national work. One word we may add, that the spirit of Shenley might well inspire our hospitals, and our Student-Nurses would, we feel sure, benefit by a term of training throughout its vast field of philanthropy.

Impressed by the absence of any agreed policy with regard to first aid for burns, Dr. Leonard Colebrook, Professor J. P. Todd and Mr. T. Gibson have recently been carrying out an investigation on behalf of the Medical Research Council at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. A report of this investigation is to be published shortly, but in view of the recent renewed activity against our civilian population, and the likelihood of a large number of burning injuries, the conclusions reached are revealed in a letter by Dr. Colebrook. Their conclusions are:—

(1) In all severe burns no first aid should be attempted other than keeping the patient warm and giving morphine if required. Immediate removal to hospital is the first consideration. (2) Small burns which are accessible should be covered with a recently clean towel, or better, if it is available, with a clean cloth. They should be treated without delay at a hospital or by a private doctor. (3) When dress treatment cannot be carried out without considerable delay, the burned area and the skin around should be freely smeared with a water-soluble anti-bacterial cream. The cream, which is recommended on the basis of extensive trials, has been named "Glasgow No. 9," its formula as given by Dr. Colebrook.

Notice of the Department of Health is again to be brought to the urgent need for more nurses at Glenlondom Sanatorium. Seventy-two persons could not gain admission because of the lack of staff. The Ministry of Labour should be asked to direct nurses to the Sanatorium in the same way as they were directed to the Forces. County Clerk's proposal that the Department be again approached was agreed to.

"GREY AND SCARLET"*

A NEW CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF NURSING.

In the days of Florence Nightingale, and until the present time, nurses "in the Field" were at the base hospitals in the war area, as far as possible from extreme danger, to minister to the sick and wounded.

In our time, however, ceaseless catastrophic changes in methods of modern warfare now bring Army Matrons and Sisters on active service to share the hazards and nerve-racking strain of total war; and we feel sure that all nurses will be proud and interested, if not thrilled, to read in the publication of "Grey and Scarlet" edited by Ada Harrison, how the Army Matrons and Sisters, on active service, have, by their courage and endurance, added an illustrious chapter to nursing annals.

As President of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, Queen Mary has written a Foreword to "Grey and Scarlet," expressing pride in her nurses:—

Foreword by Her Majesty Queen Mary.

"These letters from members of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, of which I am President, have interested me deeply. They give some idea of the hardships undergone, of the courage, initiative and endurance shown during these years of war.

I am proud of my Nurses, and feel sure that many will share the view that the Q.A.I.M.N.S. have upheld the traditions of our Service."

Introduction by Dame Katharine Jones, D.B.E., R.R.C.

In her Introduction, Dame Katharine Jones, Matron-in-Chief of Q.A.I.M.N.S., tells us that "Grey and Scarlet" is composed of letters and extracts from diaries of informal records and experiences sent to her from Army Nursing Sisters of Q.A.s and T.A.N.S., on active service; Dame Katharine further unfolds a concise and uplifting record of the organisation and progress of the Service.

"The Q.A.s derive direct from Florence Nightingale, except that to-day they are professionals. In 1854, Florence Nightingale chose 40 nurses to take to the Crimea to do what they could to relieve the sufferings of the sick and wounded at the base hospitals in the war area. From that beginning sprang the Army Nursing Service, and at that moment also began the slow advance towards official recognition, legal professional status not having been conferred until the passing of the Nurses' Registration Act, in 1919. . . .

"During the next few years they began working in Military Hospitals in London, at Netley and at Woolwich. In 1881, the Army Nursing Service was inaugurated, and in 1883, it was published in Army Orders that Sisters were to be employed in all Army Hospitals of 100 or more beds. These Sisters had the training then available. The next year saw the issue of the first Regulations for the Female Nursing Service and the introduction of Sisters into the Military Hospitals at Aldershot, Gosport, Portsmouth, Devonport, Dover, Shorncliffe, Canterbury, the Curragh (Ireland), Malta, and Gibraltar.

"In the Boer War the Nursing Service proved itself on a large scale; 1,400 nurses were sent to South Africa (the Reserve having come into being in 1897), of whom 80 were supplied by Canada, Australia and New Zealand; and the verdict on their work was pronounced by the Director-General of the Army Medical Service of the day:

'We believe that an extension of the powers of the Matron, of the Sisters and Nurses in Military Hospitals will be of enormous advantage to the officer-in-charge of the hospitals, through him to the General Officer Commanding and ultimately to the Army at large.'

* Hodder & Stoughton, Ltd., London. Price, 6s. net.

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