

departure, leaves of absence granted, orders given, death, etc., will, on the day of its occurrence, be reported to the surgeon general by the medical officer in charge of a hospital. Information slips will be used for this purpose, giving Christian names and surname in each instance.

On the last day of each month the medical officer in charge will forward a return of female nurses under contract to the surgeon-general, through the chief surgeon, on blank form furnished by this office.

He will forward directly to the surgeon general the efficiency reports prepared by the chief nurse, and will indorse thereon his remarks stating whether or not he concurs in the grading reported by her. He will also indorse on it his report of the efficiency of the chief nurse, specifying in detail the character of the services rendered by her.

Uniform.—The uniform of the army nurse corps (female) consists of a white linen shirt waist and apron, with skirt, necktie, and, if needed, a short jacket of army blue galatea. A nurse provides for the laundry of her uniforms. A chief nurse shall wear a red silk sash knotted around the waist, with or without the apron.

The badge of the corps is the cross of the medical department in red enamel, with gilt edge. This is pinned on the left side of the collar of the uniform or on a corresponding part of her dress when she is not in uniform.

When a nurse is appointed she will be supplied with detailed instructions on this subject, and will immediately procure her uniform. It will invariably be worn during her hours of duty.

Exceptions to the rules regarding uniform may be made by the surgeon general when deemed desirable.

Duties of a Nurse.—A nurse will study and conform to the rules of military discipline and obey strictly and without delay any order which may be given her by her superior officers or her chief nurse. A nurse will familiarize herself with the details of this circular, of which she will retain a copy, and will study such portions of the "Army Regulations" and "Manual for the Medical Department" (which are in the custody of the chief nurse) as relate to the performance of her duties.

When required by the climate the chief nurse may, with the approval of the medical officer in charge, substitute the eight-hour day for the usual ten or twelve hours of ward duty.

If a hospital is large enough to require it, one or more nurses may be assigned to duty as assistants to the chief nurse, and if several nurses are on night duty, one will act as chief night nurse.

A nurse will not receive presents from patients or from the relatives or friends of patients.

A nurse must carefully preserve her copy of contract and present it to the proper officer for indorsement whenever she is paid, or given orders, or granted leave of absence, or her contract is annulled.

Dietist.—When assigned to duty as a dietist, a nurse will have the supervision, under the direction of the medical officer, of the preparation of food intended for patients unable to eat the usual ration. She may also be required herself to prepare such food, or to instruct enlisted men in its preparation, or to attend to the drawing of rations or preparation of food for the nurses, or to perform such duties as may be assigned to her by the chief nurse, with the approval of the medical officer in charge; the whole to be regulated by the size and requirements of each hospital.

Chief Nurse.—The surgeon-general will appoint as many chief nurses as may be necessary, by promotion from the grade of nurse; such appointees to be reduced if unsatisfactory or if a less number of chief nurses are required.

If at any hospital one (or more) of the nurses proves herself possessed of marked executive ability, good judgment, and tact, she should be recommended for promotion by the chief nurse and medical officer in charge.

When a vacancy occurs, an eligible nurse will be appointed chief nurse by the surgeon-general.

Duties.—The position of chief nurse is, so far as army

conditions permit, equivalent to that of a superintendent of nurses in a civil hospital. It is her duty to supervise the ward work of the nurses and see that it is kept up to the highest standard; to regulate the nurses' hours and assign each to her specific duty. She will attend to their comfort and welfare, and see that they receive proper attention when ill, and will be responsible for their dignified and discreet conduct. She may make such rules for them as are approved by the medical officer in charge, and will see that the provisions of this circular and the directions of the medical officer are faithfully carried out.

The chief nurse will render efficiency reports of the nurses serving under her on the last day of March, June, September, and December of each year. A similar report will be made when she is about to leave a hospital, and whenever she may consider it desirable or it may be ordered by the surgeon-general. Special efficiency reports of an individual nurse will be made whenever one is ordered away from the hospital, or one whenever the chief nurse deems it desirable. Blanks for efficiency reports will be furnished by the surgeon-general.

In smaller hospitals, according to the circumstances in each, the surgeon may assign her additional duty, either in the wards or in charge of the linen room, or as dietist.

She will familiarize herself with the "Army Regulations" and the "Manual for the Medical Department," so far as they affect her duties, and will keep copies of these books for consultation by the nurses.

All reports will be addressed to the surgeon general and forwarded through the medical officer in charge. Any communication requesting or involving the issuing of orders is official and will follow the same channel.

Reserve Nurses.—A certain number of nurses who have rendered at least four months' satisfactory service in the army will be appointed reserve nurses.

Each reserve nurse will sign an agreement to enter active service wherever required and to report by letter to the surgeon-general on the 1st of January and the 1st of July of each year, and at other times if required. Reserve nurses wear the badge of the army nurses, but are not paid except when on duty.

When assigned to active duty, they will be subject to all established rules and regulations and will receive the pay and allowances of nurses on the active list. On returning to her home from active duty, a reserve nurse will be granted eight (8) days' leave of absence with pay, in addition to that to which she may otherwise be entitled.

A nurse will be dropped from the reserve list upon reaching the age of forty-five years, or if she ceases for five years to practise her profession, or if she becomes incapacitated from ill health, or for any other good and sufficient reason. But a nurse shall not be dropped from the reserve list without information being furnished her of the cause for such action and an opportunity being given her to reply to any charges which may have been made against her.

The official section regarding reserve nurses is considered one of the most important in the circular. For practical purposes reserves may express their preference as to whether they desire early assignment to active duty or whether they wish to be called upon only in time of war or national emergency.

Practical experience during and since the Spanish war has demonstrated the necessity of having a competent chief nurse at each hospital, the existence of a head being as important among the nurses as it is in other parts of the military organization.

One of the most useful duties to which nurses have been assigned is that of instructing hospital corps men in practical nursing and in cooking. This is being done in some of the army hospitals, and notably also in the two schools for hospital corps men at Washington Barracks, Washington, D. C., and at Angel Island, California. Since the summer of 1899 a trained nurse has been on duty at each of these schools as instructor in the preparation of diet for the sick. Fifteen lessons are given, of an

hour each, and the whole work is adapted to army use, including not only the preparation of liquid and light diets from hospital stores, but the utilization of the ordinary and the travel rations for the sick. A pamphlet entitled "Emergency Diet for the Sick in the Military Service," containing recipes which are taught practically at these schools, has been published and issued to army hospitals.

In the spring of 1900 one of the chief nurses was for the first time assigned to temporary duty as inspector of nursing at certain hospitals where women are stationed. This plan will probably be adopted whenever need therefor arises.

The spring of 1900 finds a few nurses still on duty in Cuba and a few at post and general hospitals in the United States, the largest number being forty on duty at San Francisco. About one hundred and forty nurses are serving at the various hospitals in the Philippine Islands, on the hospital ship *Relief*, and on transports in the Pacific ocean. It has been found desirable, whenever patients are returned from the Philippines, to place at least two women nurses on the transport which carries them.

It is desirable to compare the above history of the army nurse corps during and since the Spanish-American war with conditions which prevail elsewhere. In Europe, as a general rule, a limited number of women nurses are employed in army hospitals in time of peace, and provision is made through religious and secular channels for a large increase in case of war. In England, the regular nurses and also the reserve nurses belonging to the "Army Nursing Service" are secular, but on the Continent the women so employed are members of the religious sisterhoods. In our country the Catholic orders have but a comparatively small surplus beyond their own needs. The Red Cross societies of foreign countries are great organizations under government control, through which all civil aid to the army must come; but we have nothing similar to them in the United States, nor are they indeed altogether compatible with the liberal instincts of our people.

In our civil war Miss Dorothea Lynde Dix held the position of superintendent of women nurses, although that appointment carried with it no definite official status and no salary. The profession of the trained nurse did not exist at that time, and nurses were selected by Miss Dix for army contracts largely on account of their matronly age and manners. A notable proportion of the nursing during the civil war was done by women who were never officially appointed or paid.

When the United States again finds itself on the eve of war it is most desirable that admission to army hospitals should be absolutely limited to graduate nurses holding official appointments. If at that time we should have reverted to conditions similar to those existing at the beginning of the Spanish-American war, it would be necessary promptly to appoint a woman as superintendent of the army nurse corps. It is eminently desirable that this appointee should hold a commission as an officer of the army, and in order to do this she would, under present laws, necessarily be a physician. Her principal assistant should be a trained nurse, who would remain in the surgeon-general's office and have charge of the details regarding the selection of nurses. The superintendent herself should have direction of the organization of the service, subject to instructions given her by the surgeon-general, and should have authority to travel as much as might be necessary to secure the establishment of the service on a thoroughly satisfactory foundation. It is, however, unquestionably better for the army to maintain in time of peace the nucleus of what it will need in time of war, and it is hoped that the existing army nurse corps, organized as above outlined, may serve as such a nucleus.

Anita Newcomb McGee.

ARMY TRANSPORT SERVICE.—"The Quartermaster's Department of the United States Army is charged with the duty of providing means of transportation of

every character, either under contract or in kind, which may be needed in the movement of troops and material of war. It furnishes all public animals employed in the service of the army, the forage consumed by them, wagons and all necessary articles for their use except the equipment of cavalry and artillery. It furnishes clothing, camp and garrison equipage, barracks, storehouses, and other buildings, constructs and repairs roads, railways, and bridges, builds and charters ships, boats, docks, and wharves needed for military purposes, and attends to all matters connected with military operations which are not expressly assigned to some other bureau of the War Department. Subsistence, ordnance, signal, medical, and hospital stores are procured and issued by other bureaus of the War Department, but the Quartermaster's Department transports them to the place of issue and provides storage for their preservation until consumed. When troops are moved suitable transportation is provided by this department. On railways the accommodation afforded by tourists' sleeping cars (a seat by day and a berth by night for each soldier) is furnished whenever practicable. On transports cabin passage is furnished to officers and reasonable and proper accommodations for the troops, and when practicable a separate apartment for the sick. Provision is also made by Army Regulations for the transportation by land and sea of the authorized allowance of baggage of troops and for the animals employed in the public service. These regulations, general in their nature, established by order of the President through the Secretary of War, are in their details extended by the quartermaster general acting under the authority of the Secretary.

The Army Transport Service under the foregoing Regulations existed only as a subdivision of the multifarious duties performed by officers of the Quartermaster's Department, having no special and separate organization. It now operates as a division of that department under special regulations, having assigned to it officers and men of other branches of the service associated with civilian employees of various grades. It is an outgrowth of the Spanish war, and is yet in some of its features and details in process of development for adaptation to the war now in progress in the Philippines.

At the outbreak of the war with Spain the only transports available for moving troops overseas were ships of the merchant marine (save an occasional loan by the navy) hastily and temporarily refitted for the accommodation of soldiers and such of the converted navy cruisers as might be spared by the navy for their service. During the progress of the war, and especially in view of extensive and protracted military operations in the Philippines, it became apparent that for long voyages a special organization and equipment was requisite to insure the health and consequent efficiency of the troops on arrival in overseas ports in tropical waters. A board of officers was accordingly convened by the War Department in the month of September, 1898, for the purpose of formulating Regulations for this service. The board submitted its report, which received the approval of the Secretary and was published in the month of November following. Operations under the new Regulations began without delay. A number of steel steamships formerly chartered became the property of the Government. The work of refitting for overseas troop ships those of the fleet having the greater power and tonnage began in several shipyards on plans prepared or accepted by the department. The smaller vessels acquired and intended for the West India and coastwise service also received additions and alterations on less extensive plans adapted to the shorter voyages.

The new regulations established two home ports or headquarters for the Army Transport Service: one at New York for the Atlantic traffic, and one in San Francisco for the Pacific traffic. Each home port is to have its equipment of officers and employees and to be provided with proper terminal facilities. The general organization of both divisions is as follows, the personnel being duplicated in the two home ports:

