

Caps or any form of head dress worn with outdoor uniform, should be removed on entering a building of any kind, with the exception, of course, of church.

There are several other changes which have taken place since we have come under the Armed Forces, and the Army Act, but time and space will not allow of more detail now, except to say that although we are now recognised by the state to be Army Officers, we are still nurses, which really is more important than anything else, most decidedly so. It should never be forgotten by officers of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service that they are first and foremost, members of the Nursing Profession, together with Officers of all the other Nursing Services of His Majesty, the King Emperor.

MALE NURSES IN THE ARMY

George P. Parker, R. N. (Jemadar, I.A.M.C.)

Before commencing this brief sketch of 'Male Nurses in the Army', I must thank all those who have helped to improve the status of male nurses in the army. Hardly an hour passes without leaving behind some sort of change in the present world, and recently a great change has occurred in the history of male nurses, which has given them the opportunity to prove their professional ideals in the army. Male nursing in India is still in its infancy, it was first started in Mission Hospitals. Students flocked to nursing schools with no idea of what their future might be, and these training institutions were turning out young trained male nurses, who had not many prospects and all except a few were employed in mission hospitals. Although the mission trained nurses were recognised as registered nurses by the provincial nursing councils, they were not given the same salaries as the government trained nurses if they worked in Government hospitals; but a wonderful opportunity has now been opened to them, by the great efforts of well-wishers in the army and the officers of the 'Trained Nurses' Association of India, they are now able to join the I. A. M. C. with the rank of Viceroy's Commissioned Officers.

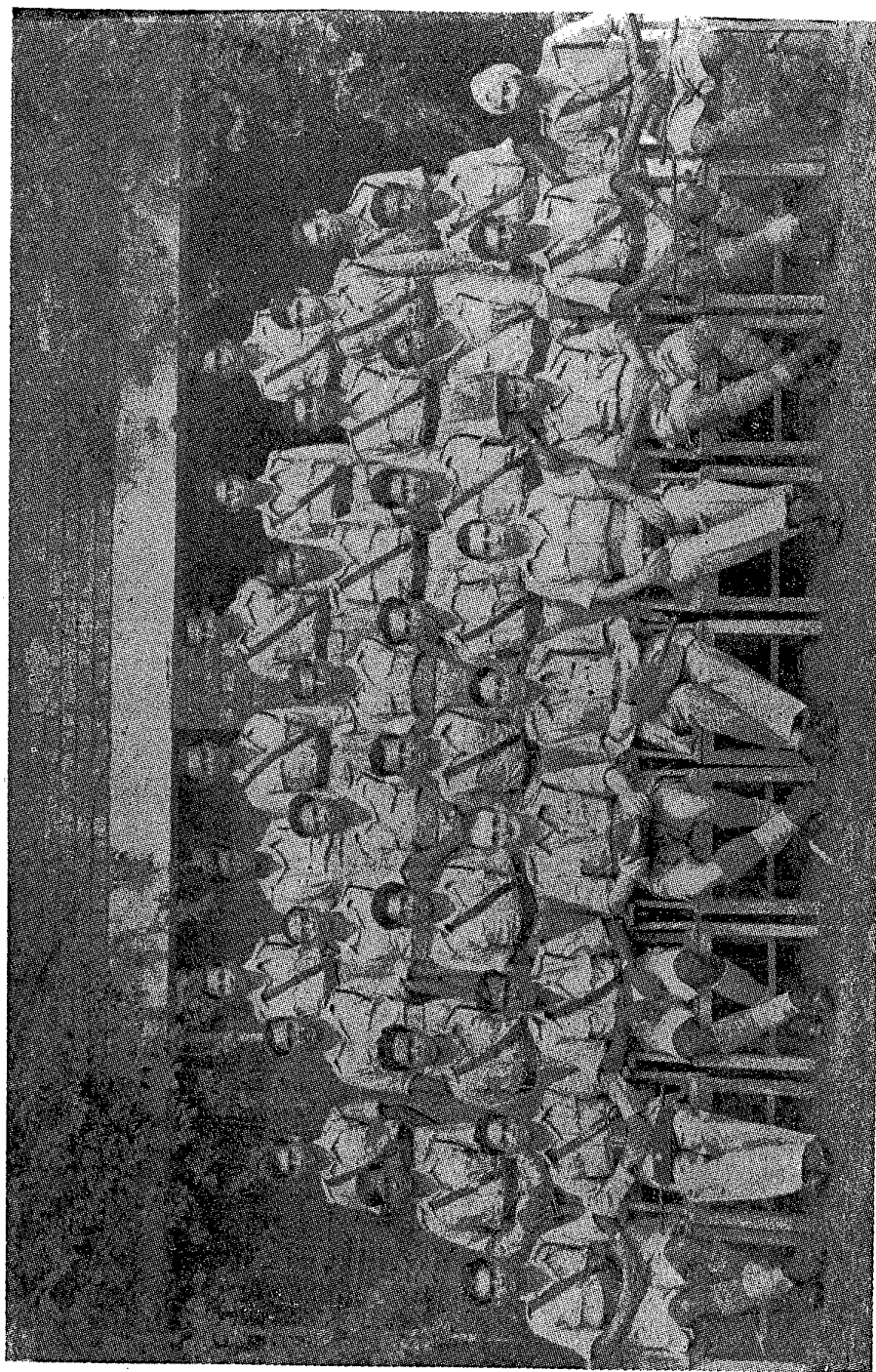
This is the first time in the history of the world, that Indian male nurses are serving in the army. At first, they were given the same rank and pay, as that of compounders which discouraged many of them, from joining, but, afterwards by realising the real value and ability of male nurses from those who had already been enlisted, and who were the first pioneers to the nursing career in the army, their scale of pay and rank was raised. This revision was a great encouragement and brought in many more recruits.

Flesh is weak and there may be a natural desire for every human being to make money and enjoy life, but this should not be the motive of nurses in joining the army, on the other hand, it should be, firstly, to render their services to the sick and wounded who have risked their lives for the universal noble cause, and secondly, to create a way for the uplift of other male nurses.

As a male nurse who has served for eight months in the army, I would like to tell you a few things about the nature of the work we are doing.

Most of the male nurses are selected as instructors to the nursing sepoy (nursing orderlies), to teach them elementary nursing first-aid, anatomy, physiology and hygiene. It is, of course, a difficult task to teach the uneducated sepoy in their own tongue. So the instructors had to prepare a simple nursing syllabus and teach them clearly. By and by the sepoy grasped something and were able to answer the questions put up and the officers' satisfaction gave the higher authorities a good impression of the instructors and their ability. Now they are recruiting better educated men as special improvers instead of nursing sepoy.

The other nurses are posted in hospitals. Some are sent to work in operation theatres and wards to assist the Sister. It is a pity that more of them are not given complete charge of wards, other than venereal, genito-urinary, etc. They are really helpful to the medical officers in all respects and are carrying out all the duties imposed on them to the entire satisfaction of their superiors. These things have made



Men Nurses, Viceroy's Commissioned Officers in the I.A.M.C., photographed with their Medical Officers.



L.M.N.S. & I.M.N.S./T.
Matrons at the School of Nursing
Administration.

Left Back Row (Left to Right)—

Miss M. Bearcroft, Miss R. Langhorne,
 Miss E. Buchanan (Sister Tutor)
 Miss E. Hamilton, Miss L. Braganza.

Front Row (Left to Right)—

Miss L. Hosie, Miss M. Craig (Director)
 Miss K. O'Hearn.

Below Back Row (Left to Right)—

Miss B. Bhagwandas, Miss M. Ferns,
 Miss O. Nazareth, Miss C. Abana,
 Miss E. Joseph, Miss M. Myers,
 Miss E. Waddel, Miss W. Paris.

Front Row (Left to Right)—

Miss E. deMellow, Miss D. Tauner
 Miss M. Craig (Director)
 Miss E. Buchanan (Sister Tutor)
 Miss D. Davis, Miss E. Kishander.



Sea-Sick

Colonel (who is visiting sick friend in a Royal Naval Hospital) to sick berth attendant. "Can you tell me where to find Commander Hardy?" Sick berth attendant—"Yes, Sir, he'll be in his cabin, Sir."

Colonel—"What?—Well where is it?"

Sick berth attendant—"On the upper deck, Sir."

Colonel begins to find his sea legs and discovers room on upper floor, but it is empty.

Colonel to second sick berth attendant.—"Can you tell me where I can find Commandar Hardy, I understand he is a patient here." Second sick berth attendant.—

"Sorry sir, he's not on board sir."

Colonel (exasperated) Then where the...is he?

Sick berth attendant—"He's gone ashore, Sir."

Exit Colonel feeling all at sea.

THE AUXILIARY NURSING SERVICE

The outbreak of the war found India totally unprepared in the Nursing field to meet any emergency which might be required of her.

In spite of the repeated warnings and supplications of the T.N.A.I. this state of affairs continued until early 1941.

The authorities then began to wake up to the fact that if the war came nearer to India, there would be a grave scandal, in that no preparations had seriously been made to increase the number of nurses in the country. It was also realised that it was impossible to get the large numbers required to assist the army from a purely voluntary organisation like the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, though the members of St. John's Nursing divisions have rendered yeoman service to the cause, and have been of immense value in dealing with the emergency intake of patients to military hospitals, in meeting the ships, and assisting in hospital trains.

It was, therefore, decided in 1941 to re-organise the service, and to call for women to come forward and be trained under the Auxiliary Nursing Service to serve in Civil or Military Hospitals, under the Military or the A.R.P. services. In the first year of its existence the candidates were given an intensive three months training in a Civil training centre before being posted to military hospitals. For the past 18 months the candidates have completed six months training in the civil training centre before joining military hospitals. In spite of their short training the Auxiliaries are rendering splendid service, and accepting responsibilities under the supervision of the certificated Nursing Officers.

They are to be found in the Middle East, in Iraq and Iran, in Hospital Ships, and in stations all over India and Ceylon.

Because of the paucity of certificated nurses in this country, and in order to encourage the members of the Auxiliary Nursing Service to take up nursing as a career after the war, the Provincial Nursing Councils have agreed to give generous concessions to auxiliary nurses who desire to complete their training and become certificated nurses. The initial training period is counted in full, and a proportion of the military service in diminution of the full period required to sit for the final state examination, subject to the following proviso:—

- (a) The candidate has given satisfactory service.
- (b) That she enters the civil training centre and completes not less than 11 months in the nursing of women and children.

In order to assist as far as possible all those auxiliaries who desire to complete their training, the military authorities have specially staffed a few hospitals to function as affiliated training centres. It is expected that a large number of auxiliaries will be able to take this further training and sit for the preliminary state examinations of the provincial nursing councils while they are serving. This will not only greatly