

Services have also to be reported to them. **THEY DO NOT ISSUE ORDERS** and questions concerning military employment of individuals, should not be referred to them. Close liaison is maintained between the military (D.M.S.) and civil (D.G.I.M.S.) on all general medical and nursing matters.

The Nursing Advisor in the office of the D.G.I.M.S. is known as the Chief Lady Superintendent, A.N.S., though the A.N.S. form only one part of her many duties. Naturally, this office of the D.G.I.M.S. spreads tentacles all over India to draw in recruits. Apart from their own Central Government Inspector-Generals of the various areas and the Surgeon Generals of Provincial Government Medical Services, who recruit for them both qualified Nurses and would be A.N.S., they are also very largely assisted in the recruitment of the latter category by St. John's Ambulance Brigade Overseas. Lady District Superintendents of St. John's have associated themselves very closely with the Auxiliary Nursing Service, not only being the main recruiting agents but in helping to organise their preliminary training arrangements, in fitting them out with uniform and maintaining a general non-official interest in their military career.

All these civilian officials, as you can see by this, have a very important bearing on our Services personnel, since without them, little or no nursing personnel on the Indian side would exist, but they must be divorced from actual military service in your minds. For that purpose, your only authorities are as given in para 2 above.

ADMINISTRATIVE POSTS IN THE INDIAN MILITARY NURSING SERVICE

By Mrs. S. Wilkinson, O.B.E., R.R.C., Q.A.I.M.N.S., Chief Principal Matron

It has often been said that in the Indian Military Service Matrons are not always, in fact very rarely, given the position which a Matron in the British Service takes for granted. They are rather relegated to the background instead of being an active accepted Head in all matters affecting Nursing in a Hospital. That embraces patients and staff, male and female and all concerning them, in fact there is very little in a Hospital that is not the concern of the Matron to some extent. **THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY** of obtaining this position and that is by experience, and by a tactful gradual unobtrusive **ASSUMPTION** of same.

The higher Military authorities have done much to hasten this process. Principal Matrons are all requested to make enquiries and give advice on these matters to both Officers Commanding and Matrons during their visits to Units. They have been advised to bring to the notice of the Deputy Director of Medical Services and Assistant Director of Medical Services the necessity of constantly encouraging Officers Commanding Units to co-operate more fully with their Matron. The same point was mentioned by the Director of Medical Services, General Headquarters, India, at a Conference attended by all Deputy Directors Medical Services, Armies Commands, India and Ceylon.

Many Officers of the Indian Military Nursing Service are called upon to perform the duties of Matrons and Assistant Matrons in very large Hospital Units, some as Sisters in charge of smaller Hospitals. They also must take their turn as Staff Matrons at Headquarters Armies Commands. Other new employments for them are Matron Instructors at Training Centres for the I.A.M.C. Nursing Sepoys, and Touring Nursing Examiner Officers in connection with the same I.A.M.C. Training.

All this unexpected experience breaks entirely new ground and gives them a very wonderful opportunity to prove their individual worth and adaptability. Knowing that they are officially encouraged and upheld, it is for them to demonstrate what their Service stands for and what they mean it to become in the future. **THE SERVICE OF THE NURSING PROFESSION IN INDIA.**