

and to report at the Gas School for instructions on Saturday morning. We went, and I can tell you it was not a nice experience at all. First, we were taken into a marquee and told to remove our hats, and had instruction in getting into the helmets. Then the helmets were tested, and we got into them; and finally we marched into a room full of gas, where we remained for five minutes. Of course, there was an officer, an R.A.M.C man, and two sergeants with us, so we were well watched. We were told to talk and walk about, just of course to give us confidence really; and when we received the order to remove helmets our eyes just poured as the fumes rose from our clothes. It was like the fumes of formalin. To-day we went to the school again. We left here in a transport car, went up to the bull-ring, which consists of a parade ground, school of all sorts, and camps. We were met by an officer, who took us to a tent, where we removed

our hats in readiness, and had a lecture for an hour; then were shown how to get in and out of helmets, which we are supposed to do in six seconds. The first time I did mine in nine seconds, the second time in five and a-half seconds. Then he took us to a trench, which was full of poisonous gas. The trench had a swing door at each end, and, of course, when you go in you must go on, as you can't get back. The officer went first; then with his right hand he held the left hand of the sister behind, and so on. We were all holding hands—six of us—with an officer in front and at rear, the one in front telling us the way to go and what to do. The gas was just thick; we could see it, but never felt a thing. It took us a minute to go through. It is most wonderful. I have confidence now, and would not worry one bit about a gas alarm if I had my helmet. I am pleased it is over, and I have my certificate.

Salaries and Pensions

A commission has lately been sitting in Cape Town at the instance of the administrator to consider the whole question of the grading of hospitals, salaries, pensions, etc. "As far as we can gather," says the "South African Nursing Record," "the idea is to grade all classes of hospitals carefully, then to pay the matrons according to the class of institution they control; further, to establish a uniform scale of emolument for sisters and staff nurses, with uniform and regular increases. In a country hospital where State aid is so large a factor in hospital administration this is only right, and a great many gross inequalities will be rectified by it. There is to our mind a very great need for a systematic distribution of salaries, and the more order and regularity that is introduced into the administration of hospitals the better." The "Record" strongly urges upon the T.N.A. the establishment of a benevolent fund, with, later on, its own seaside hostel for nurses.—From the "Nursing Times."

It is interesting to observe how the problems with which we ourselves have been grappling come up from time to time in other places. In our pages several years ago we published the conclusions arrived at in New Zealand. We shall be glad to learn if a solution whereby inequalities may be smoothed out in a manner satisfactory to all concerned, is arrived at in South Africa. There are so many factors to consider that we are not hopeful of a workable scheme.

Many of our readers express verbal opinions regarding salaries and superannuation. We should welcome a thoughtful paper on the subject, giving the views of the nursing profession in a concrete form, which might be presented to the Hon. Minister in charge of Hospitals and Public Health, who has announced his intention at a future date of considering what can be done in the matter of superannuation for nurses.

Do the work that's nearest,
 Though it's dull at whiles;
 Helping, when we meet them,
 Lame dogs over stiles;

See in every hedgerow
 Marks of angel's feet,
 Epics in every pebble,
 Underneath our feet.