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(CIRCULAR No. 4.)

SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE,

June 5, 1862

The Secretary or War having authorized in certain cases the employment of civilians as cooks and nurses for duty in General Hospitals, (only,) the following rules and instructions are published for the information of all concerned:

REGULATIONS FOR THE HOSPITAL CORPS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

The men of the Hospital Corps will each receive \$20 50 per month, besides clothing, rations, and medical attendance.

They will be under military discipline, and subject only to the orders of the Medical authorities, and will wear the undress uniform of a private soldier, with a green half chevron on the left fore arm.

Their duties will be either nursing the sick and wounded of the Army in Hospitals, cooking, or any other duties with the sick at the discretion of the Medical Officers.

They will be divided into squads of eleven, one of whom will be responsible for the efficiency of the rest. One squad will be allowed to every one hundred patients.

At the usual roll-calls, the chief of the squad will answer for the rest to the Hospital Steward, who will thus learn the number of vacant beds in each ward, and all other particulars concerning the condition and wants of the hospital, which he will report to the Medical "Officer of the Day." The term of the service of the Hospital Corps will be according to the necessities of the service, or during good conduct.

The amount of pay and clothing received by each nurse, with date, will be recorded on their contract, which will be as a Descriptive List to go with the nurse.

The senior Medical Officer in charge will make a monthly pay roll of the Hospital Corps similar to Form 12, Medical Regulations, except the rank and designation, and transmit the same for payment to the nearest Medical Disbursing Officer.

Surgeons in charge of General Hospitals, when so authorized, may make contracts with persons for such service according to the provisions set forth herein.

WILLIAM A. HAMMOND,

Surgeon General.

NOTE.—It is hereby enjoined upon all Medical Officers that they shall not avail themselves of this special authority of the War Department without first receiving permission of the Surgeon General to do so, on making a full statement of the facts in the case, and clearly setting forth the reasons why the permission should be granted, except in cases of immediate necessity and urgency, and then the Commanding Officer must approve. In such exceptional cases the facts will be promptly reported to the Surgeon General with the necessary explanations, together with a request that permission be given to continue the employment if the necessity still exists.