

why in the case of a great profession, the supply should be arranged for—like the inanimate equipment—by contract. Further, a time of invasion would mean a time of exceptional stress, and the civil hospitals would require all their staffs."

How wise was this foresight, how splendidly the nurses of the United Kingdom rose to the opportunity offered them of proving their patriotism was amply demonstrated when war was declared. Matrons, Sisters, and Nurses, to the number of nearly 3,000, whose qualifications had been investigated, and positions assigned to them in time of peace, were ready to respond immediately to the order for mobilization, and we note Lord Knutsford acknowledges that the members of the Service—raised through methods of organization which he did, and does, dislike—are "a splendid set of workers," and that "the country could not get on without some such organization." We think "the Volunteer Corps," *i.e.*, the Territorial Force Nursing Service, has justified the foresight of its promoters.

Lord Knutsford can hardly expect an apology from our correspondent for stating what was true, "that it was reported at the time" that he had told the Lady Mayoress "she was the wickedest woman in London" for furthering the Territorial Force Nursing Scheme on voluntary lines. He says the report was untrue—but it is not untrue that it was "reported at the time" and caused much amusement.—Ed.]

"THE WICKEDEST WOMAN IN LONDON."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—As Lord Knutsford appears to have forgotten the remark attributed to him by your correspondent, and says that "it is as offensive as it is untrue," may I be permitted to say that when the Territorial Force Nursing Service was being inaugurated, in 1909, the Lady Mayoress kindly spared some of her valuable time to give me some details of the scheme, in the interests of this journal. She then remarked, with some amusement, that Mr. Sydney Holland had told her she was "the wickedest woman in London," for promoting the scheme, and doubtless others heard the same thing. No offence was meant and none taken at the time, so why take the remark *au grand sérieux* now?

Yours faithfully,

MARGARET BREAY,

Assistant Editor,

BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

SOLDIERS' SOUVENIRS FROM THE BATTLEFIELDS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—As you kindly invite the opinion of nurses on the question of "Soldiers' Souvenirs," will you permit me to say that in this hospital, and I hope in many others, it was early understood that no member of the nursing staff should solicit mementoes of the battlefield, however small; and, as far as Sisters and nurses are concerned, I believe it has been carried out. But visitors to the wards—often ladies who come

out of kindly interest and to hear tales of the war—often go away, bearing with them trophies the nurses would have loved to accept, but felt they must not.

The surgeons also keep the shot recovered from wounds, although the men almost always would like to have it. On two occasions, when it had been expressly asked for by the Sister of the ward, I myself washed the bullet and folded it in gauze and pinned it to the patient's shirt, but in both cases it was removed and taken away—not by a nurse but by a doctor—before the patient reached the ward. I do not think nurses are the only culprits, or even the chief ones in this instance.

Believe me,

Yours truly,

THEATRE SISTER.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I do not think there can be two opinions on the subject of Miss Hulme's letter. *Of course*, no Sister or nurse, or any hospital official, should deprive a wounded soldier of his souvenirs from the Front; as Dr. C. Collingwood Fenwick bears witness in your last issue, from France, "they prize these things more than money." Certainly they do, because they are the tangible evidence of their honour and manhood; and long may the Army prize honour more than cash; it means victory, even in defeat and death.

Yours truly,

A MEMBER MATRONS' COUNCIL.

A WELL-SPENT PRIZE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I beg to acknowledge with much pleasure the cheque for 5s. which I received this morning. I intend to spend some of it on the purchase of the "Medical Dictionary for Nurses" by Miss Pope, which I am sure will be interesting and useful, being up to date.

Yours truly,

JOSEPHINE G. GILCHRIST.

Gillespie Crescent,

Edinburgh.

BABY'S DIET CLOCK.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Thank you very much for mentioning and putting a picture of my clock in your journal. I have arranged with the Medical Supply Association, (of 167-173, Gray's Inn Road, London, which has a Dublin branch) to sell and advertise it for me.

Yours truly,

MAY LYLE.

55, Lower Baggot Street, Dublin.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

February 27th.—Name important adverse symptoms to be carefully watched for in scarlet fever, and state the significance of each.

March 6th.—Describe the post-operative care of tonsil and adenoid cases.

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