

UNITED WE STAND.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Reading so much lately in your interesting journal on the subject of sending untrained nurses to attend to our soldiers, it occurred to me that some of your readers might be interested in the stand taken here.

You will be aware that Australian nurses are protected by the Australian Trained Nurses' Association, we in Queensland by State Registration also.

There has been in existence for some years an Australian Army Nursing Service, which is considered a volunteer portion of the military forces.

Australia is divided into six Military Districts, corresponding to the number of States in the Commonwealth. In each district is a Principal Matron, a Matron, and a certain number of Sisters. This, I believe, is modelled on the Territorial Nursing System. To become a member of this Service an applicant must conform to the regulations laid down in the Standing Orders, a copy of which I enclose.

When first troops were offered to the Imperial Government, some of these Sisters were called up and sent away on the various transports. Later on, when hospitals were sent, more were called up and additional members were added to the ordinary establishment.

We have now in Egypt 186 nurses from Australia, besides others attached to the Military Hospitals in New Guinea and the various Australian States. Everyone is a member of the A.A.N.S., which means she is fully trained and a member of the Trained Nurses' Association in her own State.

The applications were many, over two hundred in this one State, but none were entertained unless the applicant came up to the required standard. The selection was made in each district by the Principal Medical Officer and the Principal Matron of that district.

Every nurse received from the Government an outfit allowance of £15, and they receive the following rates of pay:—Matrons, £130 per annum; Sisters, £104; Staff Nurses, £60. A field allowance is also made to each.

Only the best of the nurses applying were selected, the majority of them having held important posts in their own or other States.

The Government has sent to Egypt two fully-equipped general hospitals of 520 beds each, fully staffed with medical men, nurses and orderlies. In each hospital is a Principal Matron, two Matrons, and 90 Sisters and Staff Nurses. Besides these, several stationary and clearing hospitals have gone. Nurses were not attached to these, but if necessary they will be requisitioned from the Base.

Australian nurses have the deepest sympathy with their British Sisters over the matter.

Believe me, yours faithfully,

GRACE M. WILSON,

Matron Brisbane Hospital, also Principal Matron Australian Army Nursing Service 1st Military District.

[From the Syllabus of Qualifications necessary to become members of the Australian Army Nursing Service the same standard is in force as for Q.A.I.M.N.S. and our Territorial Force Nursing Service—a certificate for a term of three years' training and service, as provided in the Australian Army Medical Services. But no power is delegated to the Red Cross Society in Australia to interfere with nursing standards.—Ed.]

AN EYE-OPENER.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have completed two years of my three years' training, and am receiving £12 salary. For months I have been teaching and preventing mistakes being made by a succession of paying pupils—well-to-do and titled girls—who are now to be permitted to nurse sick and wounded soldiers in military hospitals, and to receive a higher salary than that due to me in my third year's service! Surely this is all very unjust. If it was not for those "Tommies," bless them all, I feel like giving up nursing entirely. Will an Economic League prevent such abuses? If it will I wish it all success, though not yet eligible to join. This War has been an eye-opener.

Yours truly,

PROBATIONARY NURSE.

FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

Candidates for the French Flag Nursing Corps for service in France, from the country, can be interviewed by arrangement with Lady Barclay, 60, Nevein Square, London, S.W. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick will be at 431, Oxford Street, W., on Friday, April 30th, and Monday, May 3rd, from 2.30 to 5 p.m., to interview candidates. Candidates must be well educated and hold a certificate for three years' training. Fever experience is a great advantage. Nurses speaking French are preferred.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

May 8th.—At what season of the year is infant mortality the highest? How may it be lessened or prevented?

May 15th.—Give a classification of wounds. Describe three of the classes named.

May 22nd.—What are the most frequent sites of tuberculous disease in children. What can nursing do to prevent it?

May 29th.—Give three essentials in the nursing care of the mother during the first week of the puerperium.

NOTICE.

Competitors for our Prize Competitions are asked to note that their papers, endorsed Prize Competition on the envelope, must reach the editor at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W., by the first post on Monday morning each week, otherwise they are too late to compete for the prize.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)