

## NURSING AND THE WAR.

During the past six months we have interviewed hundreds of nurses anxious "to go to the front," and ready to give up good positions for the change. Some are now returning in a somewhat chastened frame of mind. "The front,"—or, in the majority of instances, the voluntary hospitals at the base in which they have been working in France—has not proved altogether satisfactory. One nurse, who has done six months' war work, in applying for work on the R.N.S., remarked: "Imagine the disorganisation in the nursing world when all this excitement is over. I want to get settled in before the rush for work begins." We fear this is taking time by the forelock indeed!

The widely-circulated notice from the War Office of the shortage of nurses has inspired women from far and near and overseas to offer their services. We hear the Matron-in-Chief has simply been inundated with applications from suitable and unsuitable persons, and a vast amount of disappointment has resulted, as work for 3,000 V.A. probationers is going to be provided. In this connection, only about half that number, so far, are prepared to sign the year's contract to serve in military hospitals, so that it is not improbable that the War Office will be invited to sanction a six months' term of service for these ladies.

So many funny things have happened "on the other side," that to see women dashing about in a manly garb now occasions no surprise. London, however, still maintains some prejudice on this point; and when one of the syrens of the trenches (she calls herself a "nurse") recently appeared at the War Office in "knickers," she occasioned a considerable flutter and strain on the proverbial red tape. If only these hybrids would not make us responsible for their vagaries it would be a relief.

The following trained nurses have been appointed Sisters at the Cardiff Military Hospital, and from the qualifications submitted they without exception are ladies of wide experience, the large majority having held positions of Matrons or Sisters:—

Miss Margaret Macdonald, cert. Western Infirmary, Glasgow; Miss Enid E. George, cert. Royal Infirmary, Manchester; Miss Ethel G. Jones, cert. St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Miss Mildred Evans, cert. Royal Infirmary, Manchester; Miss Mary E. T. Samuels, cert. Royal Infirmary, Preston; Miss Jessie Buglass, cert. Royal Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Miss Beatrice A. Harper, cert. General Hospital, Wolverhampton; Miss Sophie Hilling, cert. The Infirmary, Birmingham; Miss Edith M. Davies, cert. General Hospital, Cheltenham; Miss Annie Speight, cert. Royal Infirmary, Bradford; Miss Elizabeth Bradshaw, cert. Royal Infirmary, Bradford;

Miss Olive M. Cooper, cert. Royal Infirmary, Manchester; Miss Marie J. Howarth, cert. Royal Infirmary, Manchester; Miss Ada S. Morriss, cert. General Hospital, Maidstone; Miss Lucy Taylor, cert. General Infirmary, Rochdale; Miss Florence Punter, cert. Royal Infirmary, Gloucester; Miss Annie Hutchison, cert. Royal Infirmary, Manchester; Miss Florence M. Walker, cert. Queen's Hospital, Birmingham; Miss E. G. Evans, cert. Prince of Wales' Hospital, Tottenham; Miss Louisa Jackson, cert. General Hospital, Northampton.

At a recent meeting of the Fraserburgh School Board a number of the female teachers of the board had expressed a desire to give their services as nurses during the war, and wanted to know if their places would be kept open. Before granting permission, the board communicated with the Department as to whether junior students would be allowed to take over their work. The Department wrote stating that they were against the employment of junior students. The School Board therefore refused to keep their places open for the teachers. We consider the decision absolutely just. The teachers have a most useful vocation of their own, for which they are trained and paid from public funds. Why should they assume that they possess the trained skill of the professional nurse?

Miss Daisy Edith Phillips, Sister of the Children's Ward in Barnet Infirmary, recently volunteered, and was accepted, for service in Serbia in connection with the Wounded Allies' Relief Fund. The announcement of her intention was received by the Board with unanimous expressions of admiration. Her post is to be kept open for her, and her salary to be made up during her absence to what she was receiving. The Guardians expressed their desire to give her some token of goodwill, and she chose a cabin trunk and a silver watch. On the morning that she sailed the Board received a letter from Miss Phillips saying how much she appreciated the action of the Board in helping, instead of hindering, her intention.

The party of five nurses who left Waterloo for Serbia on Thursday, April 29th, went off in very good spirits. They included Mrs. Palmieri, who was trained at the New York City Hospital, and was Superintendent of the Yellow Fever Hospital at Havana under Major-General Gorgas, Mrs. Cadell, Miss Daisy Phillips (trained at the Farnham Infirmary), wearing the watch given to her by the Barnet Guardians, from whose Infirmary staff she resigned to take up her present work; Miss Ethel Franklin (trained at the London Hospital), and Miss Bertram (trained at the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle). They will travel by sea to Salonica and thence to Kragujevac. A picture of the party appears on page 387.

The following party of nurses are leaving

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