

the first dressing and the second; there may be even a week's interval. This often does not matter much if the wound has been properly treated in the first place, or if the fractured limb has been put up in a good position, &c., but when it has been done by ignorant dressers or stretcher-bearers, or partially trained nurses, the patient may be and often is, in a horrible state when the second dressings come to be done. No untrained or half trained person should be within a hundred miles of the front.

2. *Difficulties in the way.*—There are many difficulties in employing women right at the front. For instance, the difficulty of providing sleeping accommodation for them, and the additional anxiety caused to the commander if women are in a dangerous place.

Women who have had no experience of war often do not sufficiently realise the great difficulties of transport, and either demand all sorts of things that are nearly impossible to get, or break their hearts at not being able to give their patients all they consider necessary in food or medical comforts. They do not always realise that the care of the wounded is not the *first* duty of the army, their *first* duty is to win the battle, and that is why the transport of ammunition and forage and so on have occasionally to take precedence, even of the wounded. Men, from a wider knowledge of military matters than average women, generally realise this more easily. This points to the necessity of having a very careful Selection Committee composed of professional women who are not only fully trained themselves but know something of military matters, and who will carefully pick out the exceptional women who are suited for work at the front.

3. In spite of difficulties as to accommodation, &c., the fact remains that there are at present a considerable number of women working right at the front in field ambulances, motor ambulance cars, field dressing stations with the permission of military authorities. They therefore—

- (1) Cannot object to women *per se* being at the front;
- (2) Presumably approve, and realise that that sets a number of men free for other duties;

- (3) Presumably think that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

*Military authorities approve of and use women's services at the front, therefore since women ARE being used at the front, let them be trained women.*

*Synopsis.*—Since (1) women are working at the front, and (2) their work is apparently found to be of value, it should be a *sine qua non* for reasons given in 1, that they should be—

- (a) Fully trained;
- (b) Strong and robust and able to make the best of things;
- (c) Carefully selected for general suitability and steadiness of character, as well as for proper training and experience;

(d) The Selection Committee should be a very strong and keen professional committee working directly with the military authorities.

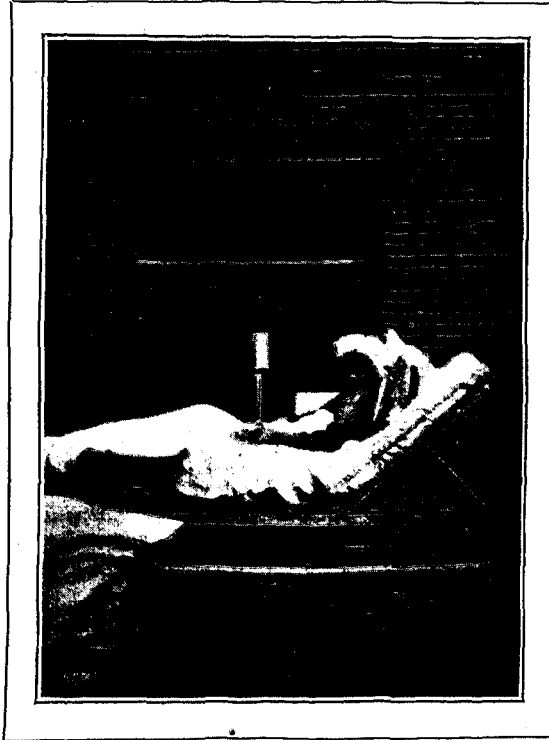
The "dailies" have reported many War weddings. They are now depicting the "battlefield brides" who have met their fates at the front doing ambulance work.

As the United States is still a neutral country, we note that several contingents of nurses are being sent to Germany and Austria-Hungary. From the names of those composing the units, the majority are evidently of German parentage.

We learn from Miss M. N. Collins, one of the party of nurses sent out to Malta by Mrs.

Moncreiffe on May 8th, that the unit has now been allotted a very nice building, and it is expected to be installed there very shortly. Miss Collins, who with Miss Higginson is a New Zealander, writes: "There will of course be plenty of work for us to do when we start, such numbers of wounded are being brought here. We have been to see some of our New Zealand boys, who are in the different hospitals, and they are so pleased to see us."

A patriotic young nurse, trained at the City Hospital, Hamilton, where she is at present under treatment after a severe operation, writes, "It is a great pleasure to receive THE BRITISH



A PATRIOTIC YOUNG NURSE.

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