

health, and how the right uses of the essential elements govern that standard, and she will no longer be content with the retail provision of food and raiment; in peace time she will want to know just what happens from seed time to harvest, so that in time of war the inner man shall run no danger from shortage of supply. And for the comfort of the outer man there must be no chance of rags and tatters. Victory is to the strong—to the physically, mentally, and morally strong—and how vital is the importance of the Imperial Mother's part in nourishing a Race has never yet been sufficiently realized by the rulers of any State.

One good result from this stupendous struggle of the nations is already apparent—for ever has been swept away the supposition that women have nothing to do with war. War affects them vitally.

Physically it can be claimed that it is their bone and sinew which are tested in every battle, it is their life's blood which is spilled upon the ground, it is their nerve force which may command the victory. Within the War Zone, mental and physical agony may be their portion in life and death. Thus they are called upon to play a warrior's part, and with little hope of glory they have seldom failed in courage.

Outside the War Zone, in family life they have been called upon to assume the dual duties of father and mother; in the industrial and professional life of the nation, the labour of women must replace that of men. Therefore I claim that women have a right to offer expert social service to the Army both in times of Peace and War, and, as a trained nurse, I would direct your attention to a few suggestions for the organization of a scheme for the maintenance of the comfort and health of the soldier from the day he is recruited until he is retired from the Service.

#### A SANITARY NURSING SERVICE.

In this connection the National Council of Trained Nurses has expressed to the Director-General of the Army Medical Service at the War Office the opinion that the lack of domestic and nursing organization, in connection with camps, billets, rations, laundry, and preventive nursing has resulted in a serious amount of sickness and suffering amongst the recruits of the New Army, which might have been prevented had the expert knowledge of women in domestic and nursing science, and their practical help, been requisitioned by the War Office, as suggested by myself in September last, and my Council has since pleaded that a new Department of the Sanitary Service of the Army might be organized, in which the

expert knowledge of women in domestic and sanitary science should be available.

No one will dispute that a recruit having been passed as sound and fit for military service, it is of the utmost economic importance to maintain his general health at the very highest standard. As good domestic management, in co-operation with efficient sanitary conditions, forms the basis of the environment best calculated to maintain health, it is very necessary that domestic science, together with personal hygiene, should be enforced wherever soldiers are mobilized—in houses, huts, tents, trenches, and hospitals.

Under the existing organization of the Army Medical Service there appears to be scope for the work of women in such a connection.

A Sanitary Nursing Service should include the following departments:—

1. Scientific Domestic Management, including housing conditions and cleanliness of billets, the nutritious value of rations and good cooking, cleanliness of food, kitchens, and utensils, and the care of clothing and laundry.

2. Personal Hygiene, to include elementary instruction to every man in the cleanliness and care of the person, and in the prevention of disease.

3. Preventive Nursing, observation of deviation from the normal in health, and first-aid nursing, under medical direction, by a special Corps of Sanitary Nursing Sisters.

To organize this Scheme I would suggest that in connection with the Royal Army Medical Corps this additional department should form a section of the Sanitary Medical Service, which has proved an indispensable part of military organization. The Sanitary Nursing Service should be composed of thoroughly trained nurses holding additional qualifications in first aid, hygiene, and sanitary and domestic science. The duties of this Service would be of a very responsible nature, and it must necessarily be composed of cultured and highly educated women, calculated to inspire respect amongst soldiers, capable of maintaining high standards of order and discipline in their departments, and who would therefore rank as officers and be sufficiently paid.

In time of war, Sanitary Nursing Sisters would be drafted to the Front, attached to camps, and be deputed to duty with the Flying Columns, and as close to the Collecting Zone as permissible, and in the Evacuating Zone, where the transport of the wounded has been so wonderfully simplified by the use of the motor ambulance and ambulance train. They should be on duty at clearing stations, rest stations, and on motor ambulances, ambulance

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