

trains, barges, and hospital ships, and thus have nursing charge of the sick and wounded during their transportation from the clearing stations to the base hospitals, where a fully qualified Nursing Staff are on duty. These Sanitary Nursing Sisters would form an entirely new branch of the Military Nursing Department. The time has long since passed when it can justifiably be asserted that the work of the medical profession can attain the best results without the assistance of skilled nursing. Trained Nurses assist the medical and surgical sections of the Royal Army Medical Corps in Military Hospitals. Why not include them in the Sanitary Service?

To indicate how far-reaching might be the scope of such a Service, one has but to suggest that in the prevention of sickness the mental and moral conditions, as well as the hygienic and sanitary, are tremendous factors; and just here comes in the social service in which the whole community has power to share. To the Imperial Mother sound health is not only a question of keeping the body fit, but, by supporting the morale of the Army, keeping the mental faculties alert, and the moral fibre pure.

Physical, mental, and moral health are conjointly responsible for the fitness of Armies, and the ultimate certainty of victory; and by helping to maintain such a standard, the mother in every woman may worthily play her part.

Such a Nursing Service as I have indicated, to be successful, would need the generous help and personal support of the community in close association with it, and, to indicate but a few of the innumerable activities of the Imperial Mother in this "Scheme for Social Service in Relation to the Soldier," I have but to mention sympathy and personal intercourse with the families of soldiers of all classes, food supplies, clothing and comforts, women patrols, temperance canteens, and club rooms, hospitality, hospital visiting, amusements for convalescents, after-care, work for the disabled, and let us not omit help for the dear wounded animals.

What is absolutely necessary to give effect to the devoted and invaluable work of women in all directions for the welfare of the Army, is to avoid overlapping by co-operation and organization, and I venture to throw out this suggestion, in the hope that it may meet with the approval of those who have given such splendid service to the nation since the commencement of the War, that an Imperial Mothers' Council might be formed, representative of every branch of women's service, which I believe has made the very deepest impression and earned

the warmest gratitude, not only of the men who are fighting and dying gloriously for our beloved country, but upon the whole community, who realize the invaluable and civilizing influence of the work of women for the Army.

I therefore beg to propose:—

1. That a Sanitary Nursing Service should form a section of the Sanitary Medical Service of the Army.

2. That an Imperial Mothers' Council be organized, representative of every branch of women's Social Service for the Army.

#### SCIENTIFIC DOMESTIC MANAGEMENT.

Mrs. Clark Nuttall, who spoke on the importance of scientific domestic management for our mobilised soldiers, said:—

It is my privilege to live in the centre of a small town which has been turned into a military camp, so I may perhaps indicate the directions in which assistance seems most useful, in connection with billets, food, laundry and mending.

Last August, when we heard we were to be billeted, we British women felt almost in the hands of the enemy. We soon found that long before the outbreak of War the areas had been marked out, and the billeting officers knew where to place their men. There are three kinds of billets—public buildings, such as schools; private houses, from the Bishop's palace to the cottage; and empty houses. If the billeting officer sets his affections on your drawing-room, and says it will do very nicely for officers, there is nothing for it but for you to take down your pictures and turn the best bedroom into a drawing-room. In cottages the men sleep in the front parlour; and in public buildings, on the floor, with a haversack for a pillow.

The billeting officer learns of undesirables from the police; and of infected houses, from the sanitary officers; and though, where so many men have to be billeted, the billeting officers cannot have too high a standard of cleanliness—and in one instance, men slept in the street rather than in their billet—they endeavour to secure suitable billets.

In case of illness, the authorities pay od. a night. If a soldier is slightly ill, he stays in his billet, and here comes in the need for attention. He may have tonsillitis or high fever after inoculation. His rations, which should be sent to him, may be forgotten; one man, I believe, was forgotten for four days, and if rations are duly delivered, a sick man cannot touch bread and cheese, and beef to which leather is tender in comparison. In one case the friends of a man pushed milk puddings through the window; and in a case of bad boils, a friend fed the man up, or there would have been a military funeral.

Again, Sanitary Sisters, of whom we have just heard, might usefully be attached to the field ambulances. My own brother (said the speaker), has been in an officers' hospital, six miles behind the firing line. He writes that a miner from

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