

NURSING AND THE WAR.

When we nurses celebrate Victory and Peace let it be with quiet thankfulness and homage. Let it be a holy day, rather than a holiday. The Royal British Nurses' Association and its Affiliated Societies should be ready to celebrate Peace in a nurse-like spirit and not by any frivolous function calculated to give the public an entirely wrong impression of our real feelings. War may cease, but what true nurses have faced and suffered during this tragic time will not be effaced from their hearts or their memories for many years to come. The agony has been so intense and worldwide, many of us will never be the same again; and it is not well that we should be.

The authorities of the Edmonton Military Hospital, where four nurses have died from influenza, which they caught while nursing wounded patients, have received the following letter from the War Office:

"The Director-General wishes it to be known in all military hospitals in the Eastern Command how much he appreciates the unselfish devotion to their duty of the members of the Nursing Services at this time of emergency.

"He is aware that they are being much overworked, and regrets that in spite of all efforts which have been and are being made to procure more nurses, it is quite impossible, owing to the widespread epidemic of influenza, to send the necessary help.

"The admirable spirit of devotion to duty of all ranks of the Nursing Service will be brought to the notice of the Nursing Board of the Army Council."

The letter is to be reprinted in the form of a Christmas card and distributed to the nurses at the Edmonton Military Hospital.

We have heard of many deaths of young nurses during this really serious epidemic of illness which has not yet been surely defined. No doubt the general health has for months been undermined by overwork and the un nourishing food on which we are existing, although we hear from many private nurses that the tables of the rich are still loaded with every luxury, in spite of the profiteering of the provision dealers. We are glad to note that this question of food prices may receive attention after the Election.

Sister Watkins, who has been awarded the Military Medal for bravery during the bombardment by the enemy of a casualty clearing station in France, was trained at Guy's Hospital, and went to France under the British Red Cross Society in 1914, joining the Army Nursing Service in 1915. Sister Watkins remained at her post until wounded in the leg, and was later sent to London and admitted to hospital. She hopes shortly to return to duty in France.

We are indebted for our portrait to the courtesy of the Editor of the *Oxford Chronicle*.

The Burdett Press exclaims:—"We are all looking with expectation to Sir Arthur Stanley, G.B.E., promptly to put himself at the head of a

Great Free Will Movement, which we have no doubt would produce two hundred and fifty thousand pounds without delay." This large sum is to be expended in controlling the Nursing Profession, but we are not enlightened as to where the "Free Will" comes in. How heartily sick we are of all this fuss-potting upon our behalf by the proprietors of newspapers (charity ads. are very lucrative), and of climbing plutocrats who hanker after proximity to the *tabouret*! We long to be left alone to work out our own salvation on self-supporting and independent lines. That is the only great Free Will Movement as far as trained nurses are concerned which matters.



SISTER WATKINS:

It now appears that the beautiful hospital established at the Hotel Astoria in Paris is to be closed down forthwith, so that it may be used as offices by the British Government during the Peace Conference. Our legion of representatives will be located at the Hotel Majestic, so that there should be ample room for Mr. Hughes and the other Dominion Premiers. We should feel safer about those German Colonies if he were there.

Miss Muriel Gladys Hutton, daughter of Alderman W. L. Hutton, J.P., of Moss Bank, Aughton, who was recently invested by the King with the Royal Red Cross (first class) decoration, has been further honoured by the presentation of the Granton Nautical Button by Admiral James Starton, at Edinburgh, "in token of the appreciation of her courtesy and kindness."

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