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PROFICIT DEFICIT."

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## Editorial.

"PAY, PAY, PAY."

THE Central Red Cross Committee, or whoever are responsible for commandeering nurses for service in South Africa, have, since the "Hospitals" agitation began, been gathering in candidates from far and near, and hurrying them off to the seat of war; acknowledging by their actions, what we pointed out six months ago, that hundreds more trained female nurses were necessary, if the sick and wounded soldiers were to have efficient nursing care. The lack of any definite system in providing nurses for active service, has resulted in a woeful lack of real nursing for the poor fellows stricken by wound and fever; and those responsible for their neglect are busy circulating the foolish statement that the supply of female nurses anxious and willing to go to South Africa, is less than the demand—hence these tears! Now we flatly contradict this statement. It is a paltry excuse and unworthy of credence. Putting aside the fact that, for a period of three complete years, the Army Nursing Service Reserve Committee sat twiddling their thumbs, having done absolutely

nothing to evolve a satisfactory organization—beyond trumpeting forth their existence, placing the first hundred women who applied, however poorly qualified, upon their list of "Reserve" Army Sisters, and labelling these women with a badge the size of a warming pan—when war was declared, thousands of well trained nurses were ready and anxious to be sent to the front.

But had they not been so, would it be at all surprising? Certainly not! We have before us the Army Orders for Reserve candidates, from which we quote from Regulation VI.: "Pay and Gratuities."

(8) A Nursing Sister, when called up for duty, will receive pay at the rate of £40 per annum.

And from Regulation VII. "Allowances."

12. A special allowance, in lieu of board, at the rate of 13s. a week at a home station, or of 3s. a day at a station abroad when rations in kind are not supplied, and of 3s. 6d. a week when they are supplied, will be granted to Nursing Sisters of the Reserve when called up on duty.

13. A special allowance for the provision of clothing will also be granted to such Nursing Sisters at the following rates:—

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