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Editorial.

A SACRED DUTY.

THE conscientious attitude of Mr. Brodrick, the Secretary of State for War, and the thorough going scheme of reform which, after consultation with the Commander in Chief, he has laid before the nation with regard to the organization of the War Office is a hopeful omen for the future of the Army Nursing Service, and the moment has arrived when not only trained nurses, but also the women of England must bestir themselves, and those possessed of earnestness of purpose must co-operate to effectively voice their views on this question, if they would prove their convictions in the matter. The present time is an auspicious one for bringing the question of the efficient nursing of the sick soldier before the War Office. Under the control of the late Secretary of State for War whose intelligence and conscience alike it seemed impossible to awaken the difficulty in the way of Army Nursing Organization was extreme. Now, however, that the services of two special nurses were requisitioned, and rightly, both in the case of a Prince of the Blood Royal, and also of the daughter of the Commander-in-

Chief, the inadequacy of the number allotted by military regulations to the rank and file must be plain to all. The South African war has roused the nation to the necessity for Army Nursing Reform, and a strong expression of opinion from women on the best means by which to effect this, is now opportune. We have met so many women whom the war has ruthlessly deprived not only of their nearest and dearest, but also of the bread winner, and who from being in positions of comparative affluence, will now have to begin a weary struggle for existence, that we are convinced the care of our sick soldiers is a question which not only concerns nurses, but every true woman in the land. We would suggest that the Matrons' Council which is the only body of trained nurses which appears to realize its responsibility on this most important matter, should invite a conference with members of the influential Womens' Societies and Clubs to consider how the public conscience can be aroused, and the all powerful influence of public opinion best utilised to effect a comprehensive system of reform in the Army Nursing Service.

This is work for the State which women have the right to undertake, and with sympathy and sensibility can undoubtedly accomplish.

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