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Editorial.

MEETING OF NURSES AT THE MANSION HOUSE.

The invitation of the Lady Mayoress to trained nurses to attend a public meeting at the Mansion House on March 15th, at which the Territorial Nursing Scheme will be explained, is one to which we are sure they will heartily respond.

The fact that the Lady Mayoress is taking the lead in the formation of the Territorial Nursing Service for the City and County of London is sure to add to its popularity, for the real ground of the appeal to metropolitan nurses is their membership in the corporate life of this great city, to which it is their pride to belong, and which it is their duty and pleasure to serve. A request to them, therefore, when issued from the Mansion House, comes with special force.

Again, Mr. Haldane, Secretary of State for War, has shown not only his sense of the importance of trained nursing in connection with the organisation of the Territorial Force, but also his belief in the patriotism of the nurses of the country, by asking them to enrol themselves for service in the Territorial Hospitals, in the event of invasion, in the same way that men are asked to offer themselves for service with the combatant forces.

It is this opportunity for personal service which inspires the enthusiasm amongst nurses which has led to their applications for enrolment all over the country, and it is the sense of individual responsibility for its prestige which must prove one of the most valuable factors in maintaining the efficiency of the Territorial Nursing Service.

The Mansion House Meeting is an appeal to Metropolitan Nurses to justify the faith which the Secretary of State for War has shown in their patriotism, and we have no doubt that their response will be to show by

their attendance that they are sensible of the honour done to them, and that there will be a record attendance at the Mansion House on March 15th.

For nurses are faced by the fact that they are essential to the welfare of their country in time of peril, and to everyone who realises this, there is only one possible course open, to place herself at the disposal of the authorities to serve it in whatever direction her services will be most useful. The warfare which they wage against disease may prove just as powerful a factor in repelling the enemy as the guns and the bayonets of the men in the fighting ranks. The dread of those who command our armies in the field—even more than the powder and shot of the enemy—is the more subtle, and even more deadly, enemy, disease; which decimates the fighting ranks, and incapacitates many a brave soldier for further service during a campaign.

Nurses have not yet forgotten the epidemic of enteric fever at Bloemfontein during the South African War, or the heavy death roll caused by this disease.

If, by the skill they have acquired through years of laborious training they are able, working in co-operation with army medical officers, to limit the spread of epidemics, to nurse back to health, and restore to the fighting line, men who in all probability would have died without skilled nursing care, then it must be admitted that they have a very real share in maintaining the efficiency of the combatant forces, and consequently that their services are a very valuable national asset.

For this honourable task nurses are called upon to volunteer. It is an opportunity they will be proud to embrace, a responsibility which they will undoubtedly accept, an obligation of Empire which they will faithfully and loyally fulfil.

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