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Editorial.

A PROFESSIONAL PRIVILEGE.

The Nursing Organisation for the Territorial Forces is almost complete, owing to the fact that trained nurses have responded most nobly to the call of their country for their skilled services, and success is sure to attend the cause that has been carried through with such splendid enthusiasm. Now it is equally certain that the loyalty of the nursing profession has not been exhausted, and therefore a further appeal to it will not be in vain.

We have provided for the nursing of the Territorial Forces should an invasion of our beloved Homeland come to pass, which God forbid! but what of the regular soldier who not only fights for his king and country, but leaves his native land and all that a man counts dear, to do so?

Apart from the actual fighting, a soldier encounters perils by sea, he combats dread climatic diseases, he endures the ordeal of isolation of the most terrible kind, and for what recompense or reward? The names of those who surrender their lives are legion, but they pass away unknown to fame though none the less it is they who do the work of winning for the Empire its victor's laurels.

And the women of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland, what can they do? It remains for them to provide a force of noble womanhood who will minister to the suffering ones in their hours of pain and weakness, helping them back to life and health and, when all human skill fails, stand by them as they are nearing the dark valley. What greater comfort is possible for the sorrowing ones at home than to feel that their sons, brothers and sweethearts are being tenderly cared for!

The appeal for nurses went forth not so many years ago, and it received a wonderful response, but from past experience the need of a larger standing personal Reserve of Nurses is keenly felt, a body of women who would be ready to go abroad should the call for their services come suddenly. It is good for a woman to feel that not only is she part and parcel of a great empire, but that she can enrol her name in its defence. It is good for her to feel that she can share with men the distinction of voluntarily placing her services, aye, and sometimes her life, at the disposal of her country, and that it can claim her in danger's hour.

And now what can the reader do?

If this appeal has not been in vain she will be glad to know that for those who are eager to take their share in such work of patriotism, which surely must appeal to a woman's heart, there are many vacancies in the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve, and that all conditions of service can be obtained from the Matron-in-Chief at the War Office.

Before closing it may interest her also to know that there is a small annual retaining fee, that members are enrolled for a period of three years, renewable from time to time, and that the uniform is almost identical with that of the Regular Service.

The call for the skilled services of nurses is heard on all sides, they are claimed by hospitals, institutions, in private houses of rich and poor, by Health and Education Authorities and County Councils in the prevention as well as the cure of disease, by Government Departments, and abroad by our own countrymen and women, and by medical missions, but none have a stronger claim than the soldiers who are wounded and broken in our wars, in whose welfare every patriot must take a special interest.

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