

a cottage nurse with a few months' training, utterly unable to teach. Would it not be a better plan to take advantage of the excellent lecturers provided by the County Councils? After the course of lectures such of the students as would do so could be examined by a St. John's examiner, and, if eligible, receive a certificate of fitness to serve as an untrained nurse in a voluntary aid hospital. The First Aid is a different matter; that, I do think, is best taught by a doctor. Of course, the entire staff of a hospital under the scheme must possess the First Aid Certificate of the St. John's Ambulance; the nurses must have it in addition to their certificate of competency in elementary nursing. I think, too, that in very thinly populated districts, where it is not always possible to raise men to carry a stretcher in emergencies, it is as well that the women, too, should be taught how to load, unload, and carry a patient in a stretcher. I myself can do so.

There is one more point that might with advantage be opened for discussion; that is the aim of a Red Cross Society. It is primarily, of course, to give aid to the sick and wounded in time of war, but I think it should be organised with a view to any national or common emergency, say a great disaster on some colossal scale. The Messina earthquake is an example. Here the Italian Red Cross gave assistance. A big epidemic is another example, say a great outbreak of typhoid or cholera. I do not know what the financial basis of the British Red Cross Society is, but one of the first things to be done is to see that it is a good one—that there are fully adequate funds in capable hands. In time of war it is of no use looking to the military authorities for help or equipment; they have more than enough to do to supply their own forces. The Red Cross must be a body that is self-supporting, that can even at a pinch give aid to the Territorial Hospitals in the way of stores or funds; and to be of the utmost value—the value that it should have—it must have ample funds.

The letter of the "Practical Person" in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING for May 14th contains a good idea. There must be many retired nurses, who, though under, say 50-55 years of age, are still too old for the Territorial Service. Why should not a roll of such of these ladies who are willing to serve in time of war in a voluntary aid hospital—not necessarily in their own town or village, for there are many little places absolutely without trained nurses where one would have to be supplied—be made?

I would also suggest that the Matron of the

nearest hospital of thirty beds or over should be appointed as an *ex-officio* member of the lay committees of ladies in charge of districts. She would be a most invaluable adviser on the subject of equipment and stores required. These ladies, it must be remembered, will have the task of raising the equipment for the temporary hospitals, and many of them have the very haziest ideas of what is necessary. Trained nurses, unless they have been in the administrative department of a hospital, are not much use here, but a Matron's or Assistant-Matron's advice would save much trouble, and probably waste of money. I put forward these few ideas diffidently, but I do earnestly wish to be of what use I can in this matter of the Red Cross, and other people may be able to set forth improvements thereon or make valuable suggestions. All at present seems a trifle chaotic, but order is being gradually evolved, and it is at this stage that useful suggestions are likely to be helpful.

Miss Mary C. Fair, Eskdale Vicarage, Boot S.O., Cumberland, will be pleased to enter into communication with those who, like herself, are anxious to help the Voluntary Aid Scheme of the British Red Cross Society.

Sympathy with the Queen Mother.

Lord Goschen presided at a special meeting of the Council of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses held at 58, Victoria Street, S.W., last week, when the following resolution of condolence with Queen Alexandra was passed:—

May it please Your Majesty.—The Council of Queen Victoria's Institute for Nursing the Sick Poor, mindful of the active and generous sympathy which Your Majesty has always shown with the work of the Council, and with the efforts of the Queen's Nurses, appointed by yourself to alleviate the suffering of the poor, and to raise the standard of health and happiness in their homes, beg leave, on their own behalf and on behalf of the officers of the institute, and of all the Queen's Nurses, to tender to Your Majesty the humble expression of their profound sympathy and of their sorrow in the irreparable loss which the whole nation has sustained; a loss which is nowhere more deeply mourned than among the suffering poor for whom it is the privilege of your nurses of labour.

At the last monthly meeting of the Dublin St. Lawrence Home, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, a resolution of sympathy with Queen Alexandra, the Patron of the Institute, was passed.

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