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## EDITORIAL.

### THE VALUE OF TRAINED NURSING IN WAR.

In spite of the meagre details which are available from the seat of war as to the arrangements for the sick and wounded, one thing is clear, that the services of trained nurses must be imperatively needed. For in the countries now engaged in strife, the training of nurses is not to any extent carried on, and although, from Royalty downwards, patriotic women are endeavouring to cope with the situation, and to give their services to the sick, no one can be an efficient substitute for the trained nurse.

For it is at such times as the present that training, with the discipline, knowledge and skill resulting from it proves of paramount importance, and nothing is so essential to the efficiency of a military hospital, and to the comfort and the safety of the sick, as a staff of thoroughly trained nurses.

With the experience of many years behind her, with a body of trained nurses, competent and devoted, with the example of the Lady of the Lamp as inspiration, England stands pre-eminent, as to nursing, amongst the nations. Both as to capacity and devotion her nurses are in the front rank.

It is therefore inexplicable that the Committee of the British Red Cross Society, which is the official channel of aid in this country to the sick and wounded in the Near East, should in organising its units, have ignored the existence of this splendid body of devoted women. We are sure that this arises from no lack of willingness on the part of trained nurses, and, indeed, we have been officially informed that many have volunteered for service should nurses be employed, but that, so far, the Committee has decided to send out no women nurses.

The British Red Crescent Society is, on the contrary, including women nurses in

the staff of its hospital which leaves London on Friday, November 1st, for the seat of war. The staff includes four surgeons, four dressers, five women nurses with Miss Amy Stuart who has had Army Nursing experience in charge, and six male nurses.

On enquiry at the Grecian Consulate, we find that the money collected by the Hellenic Red Cross Society is being sent to the British Red Cross Society which is making all arrangements.

The Servian Legation is not engaging nurses in this country, but states that Russia and France have sent Red Cross Nurses to the seat of war.

The Consul-General for Montenegro has been officially informed that no female nurses are desired.

From the Bulgarian Legation, on the contrary, we understand the hindrance is solely that Bulgaria has no money to expend on nurses, otherwise it would thankfully send them out. If any nurses—*thoroughly trained*—would go at their own expense, "in the service of humanity," they would receive introductions, and be most welcome, for it is realised at the Bulgarian Legation that there is "no such thing as an English nurse."

As we go to press we learn, on the best authority, that the statement issued in the press, on Wednesday morning, on the authority of the Secretary of the British Red Cross Society, that "with regard to female nurses nothing has as yet been done for we are awaiting reports from our directors on the spot" is misleading, as the Society despatched a contingent of nurses to Greece, all selected from the London Hospital, on the same day.

On asking for information at head-quarters the officials declined to corroborate this statement, so we give it for what it is worth. But why this secrecy? Is it because the nursing profession as a whole will consider that it has not had fair play?

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