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## EDITORIAL.

### PATRIOTISM.

The call to arms which has reverberated through this country with such sudden urgency since our last issue has its echo in the equally urgent call to trained nurses to be prepared to respond to any summons to place their services at the disposal of the sick and wounded.

To the call of her countrymen every nurse will respond, but the claim upon her is wider even than that of patriotism. There is no nationality in nursing, and in connection with their professional work nurses are above and beyond the sphere of politics. It is no concern of theirs whether a sick or wounded man is the defender or the foe of their country. Humanity demands that they shall do everything in their power to relieve his sufferings, to heal his wounds, and to lessen the burden of misery which inevitably follows in the wake of war.

It is in a time of national crisis, such as the present, that the value of training and discipline are apparent. There is probably not a woman in the country who does not desire to place her services at its disposal, and time will show many ways in which women's work can be utilized, but, in the supreme care of the moment, the provision for the sick and wounded, it is to trained nurses that the call is made, and they are answering it with the prompt efficiency of the disciplined worker.

Now is seen the value of preparation in time of peace. On enquiry at the Medical Department of the Admiralty we learnt that of the 250 nurses provided for in connection with Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service Reserve, Class A has been called up, and 92 nurses from some of the principal civil hospitals in the United Kingdom proceeded on Monday, at 24 hours' notice, to various naval hospitals, to replace the Sisters of the Royal Naval Nursing Service ordered elsewhere, or to

augment the present staffs. Class B will be ready for duty in a fortnight, and Class C will be available if wanted. Hospital "carriers" are in readiness, hospital ships will follow the Fleet.

At the War Office we learnt that the Matron-in-Chief had at present no authority to give any information. There was however evidence of activity in plenty, and members of the Territorial Force Nursing Service have been notified that they must be ready for duty at very short notice. As an instance of the spirit inspiring trained nurses it may be mentioned that on the steps of the War Office we met the Superintendent of a private nursing home, who was waiting to put her home and the service of her staff, at the disposal of the authorities.

At the Office of the Red Cross Society, which works under the War Office, nurses with three years' certificates of training are being enrolled for service in case of need, and all applications received at the War Office are referred to the Red Cross to deal with.

The key-note of the usefulness of trained nurses just now is that all should perform willingly their allotted work in their allotted place. It is impossible that more than a certain proportion should have leave of absence from hospitals and private nursing institutions, and those enrolled in the Naval and Military Nursing Reserves, and in the Territorial Force Nursing Service must first be spared. If the vacancies thus caused mean, as they will mean, extra work, and some inconvenience, for those who have to carry on the routine work of the civil hospitals that is their share of the national burden, to be accepted cheerfully. By quiet, restrained, disciplined action, by ready response to the call of duty, we are confident that trained nurses will fulfil their high vocation with endurance, foresight, strength and skill, and render service of the highest national value.

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