

ACTIVE SERVICE.

THE INTERNATIONAL NURSING CORPS.

Many nurses are desirous at this time of offering their services where they are most needed, and in order to facilitate this it has been decided to form an **International Nursing Corps—qualification a three years' certificate of training—for Active Service in War**, members to be willing to accept duty in any country where the sick and wounded may need their services. Age from 25—40. They will be enrolled at the Headquarters of the International Council of Nurses, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Application may be made on the form to be found on page viii, or nurses may call at the above address and fill in a form. They are particularly asked to state if they speak French or German, as, for a corps of this kind, a knowledge of a foreign language is most desirable. Applicants are also asked to state whether they wish to volunteer with or without asking for pay.

It must be understood that enrolment in this corps implies no certainty that the members will be called upon, but it is of the utmost value to have a corps of nurses, with qualifications sifted and tested, ready to go anywhere at short notice, instead of enrolment having to take place when the call for their services comes.

As we go to press the mobilization of the four Territorial Hospitals of the City and County of London is proceeding. No. 1, the City Hospital, staffed entirely by medical men and certificated nurses of the School of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, is to be located at St. Gabriel's College, Camberwell. The Principal Matron, Miss Cox Davies, upon whom the greater part of the organizing work has fallen, is on the spot. Miss Acton, Matron of the Lewisham Infirmary, will assume the position of Matron.

Miss R. E. Darbyshire, Matron of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, is Principal Matron of No. 2 Hospital, and the Matron is Miss Riddell, Matron of the Chelsea Hospital for Women. It will mobilize at St. Mark's Training College, Fulham Road, S.W. The site is specially convenient owing to its accessibility from the river.

Miss Barton, Matron of Chelsea Infirmary, is Principal Matron of No. 3 Hospital, which is located at the Royal Victoria Patriotic School, Wandsworth, and Miss Holden, Matron of the Richmond Hospital, Dublin, Matron. The Matron and fifty of the nursing staff are already on duty, and beds and theatre were ready on Tuesday night had any patients been sent in.

Miss Ray, Matron of King's College Hospital, is Principal Matron of No. 4 Hospital. The Committee of King's College Hospital have placed a large number of wards in the new hospital at Camberwell at the disposal of the authorities, and the fourth Territorial Hospital will be mobilized there.

Twenty trained nurses left London on Sunday morning *en route* for Brussels. All arrangements were made by Mr. Alfred de Rothschild, who is also bearing the expense of the mission. They received a very warm welcome on arriving at Brussels, and we do not doubt their services will be exceedingly valuable.

Miss A. M. Beedie, at one time Matron of the Aberdeen Maternity Hospital, and a member of the Matrons' Council, has just returned from South Africa, and had a most exciting journey up the Channel, the boat proceeding in company of two battleships, one in front and one behind, while overhead hovered an aeroplane, concerning which there was much speculation. Was it an enemy or a friend? If the former, then at any moment they might be sent to the bottom. However, happily the aeroplane turned out to be friendly, and Miss Beedie arrived in town anxious to give what help she could to the sick and wounded in the war. Meanwhile she promised us an account of her experiences for this JOURNAL. We are unable to publish them for the best of reasons. We received a brief telephone message that Miss Beedie was *en route* for Belgium. Experiences will keep. Now is the time for action if the opportunity offers.

A member of the St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses' League had also an exciting experience. With her husband she was motor-ing on the Continent on the outbreak of war. They were arrested three times, but eventually arrived at home, minus their motor car. The nurse hopes shortly to be on duty in a Territorial Hospital.

On all sides we hear of the admirable spirit animating the nursing profession. Everywhere willingness on the part of nurses to go anywhere at home or abroad where they can be of use to the sick and wounded. Equally admirable, and equally valuable, is the spirit of those left to fill the gaps in the civil hospitals. Nurses on holiday are volunteering to return if their services are needed. Nurses about to take their holidays find that after all they are "not really tired," and can quite well go on. The disciples of Florence Nightingale are proving their mettle as worthy exponents of the traditions she inspired.

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