

care, it is trained, skilled, tested, registered care which must be provided. There must be no trifling with the lives of the wounded through the American Red Cross—that is the lesson we nurses in Europe must realize at this crisis.

CEASE GRUMBLING AND LEND A HAND.

To be a carrier of water, and a hewer of wood is necessary, and as the labourer is worthy of his hire, let us see to it, that the just recognition of our skilled work is not taken from us by those who have not done their share of the labour in the heat of the day, and through the long night watches. Let every nurse who has volunteered for active service, and been superseded by the semi-trained, remember that her invidious position is largely the result of her own apathy, and lack of intelligent appreciation of nursing conditions. Let her cease grumbling, and without a day's delay let her join the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and thus support the demand that her skilled calling shall be given honourable recognition by the State, and cease to be the sport of the unprofessional pirate, who in full and becoming nurse's uniform, trips into the lime-light at war time, to the sound of the fife and drum.

A FIAT HAS GONE FORTH.

A few weeks ago we expressed the hope that the Secretary of State for War would discourage untrained women of social prominence from going to the seat of War in charge of hospitals for the wounded. We are informed that a fiat has gone forth that trained nurses only shall be responsible for supervising the nursing department in such hospitals, and that untrained ladies of title in such positions are not eligible. The whole Nursing Profession owes a deep debt of gratitude to Lord Kitchener for this decision.

TYPHOID FEVER AND SEPTIC INFECTION.

Sir Almroth E. Wright, M.D., in an article in the *Times* on "Inoculation of Troops," pleads for the compulsory inoculation of an army going out on active service, usually from the sanitary conditions of civilization straight back to those of barbarism. He points out the opportunities for infection afforded in war,

what preventive measures are applicable, how bacterial vaccines can be turned to account, gives tables of comparative statistics showing the effect of anti-typhoid inoculation, and on "Inoculation Against Septic Infection" he writes:—

"A word or two will suffice to support the suggestion that we should bring into use for the prevention of septic infection originating from wounds an anti-sepsis vaccine—i.e., a mixed staphylococcus and streptococcus vaccine. The following are here our data. We know that the two afore-mentioned species of microbes are responsible for practically all septic infection arising from external wounds. And it has now, by the experience of all who have put the matter to the proof, been placed beyond controversy that the vaccines here in question, employed in time, do, one may almost say invariably, prevent and abort the corresponding septic infections. To call up this knowledge for service, and by its means to anticipate infection in all serious wounds, is therefore a plain dictate of reason."

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

MENTION FOUR CLASSES OF WOUNDS AND HOW THEY MAY BE CAUSED?

We have pleasure in awarding the prize this week to Miss S. Simpson, McKerrell Road, Peckham, S.E.

PRIZE PAPER.

Wounds are usually classified under the four following descriptions:—

1. Incised.
2. Lacerated.
3. Contused.
4. Punctured.

1. Incised wounds, where the injury is produced by a sharp-cutting instrument, where the length bears a considerable proportion to the breadth, and the edges are clean cut.

2. Contused and lacerated wounds, where the edges are torn and ragged, and the tissues around bruised and infiltrated with extravasated blood. They are usually caused by a blunt instrument.

3. Punctured wounds, in which the depth much exceeds the length, as in a prick or a stab.

4. Gunshot wounds, resulting in the action of missiles that have been projected by force derived from explosion.

An incised wound may be defined as a clean-cut wound made by a sharp-edged instrument, either by accident or in an operation. An incised wound, however, may be made by a blunt

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