

enormous amount of work. Telephones ring, typewriters are tapped, secretaries, clerks, workers of all kinds, dozens of nurses longing to be sent to the front, all come and go; in this whirl of work Miss Claridge listens, smiles, speaks quietly, does just what you hope she will do, and you leave her presence realising how fortunate it was that her valuable services were available at St. John's Gate at this great crisis in our nation's history. The portrait which we reproduce is by *Lafayette*.

ANNIE HULME.

## NURSING AND THE WAR.

### TERRITORIAL NURSES AND THE PRESS.

A question of nursing discipline has cropped up during the past week in connection with the Territorial Force Nursing Service, as it was sure to do, sooner or later, in these days of rapacious nursing journalism, when so many publishers exploit our profession in print. From several sources the following question has been addressed to us:—

Is it contrary to regulations for a member of the Territorial Force Nursing Service to write to the press?

We gather from the communications received that in the opinion of some Matrons it is inexpedient for nurses to do so, as complications and difficulties may arise.

This may be true. But so long as the Matron-in-Chief of the Territorial Force Nursing Service is an active member of the editorial staff of the *Nursing Times*, presumably with the consent and approval of the Director General of the Royal Army Medical Service, no exception can be taken to, or regulation enforced, which prohibits the rank and file of the Territorial Nursing Service from contributing to the press.

How far such a situation is either justifiable or expedient, especially when a publication is edited by an unprofessional foreigner, it is for the War Office to decide.

Friends anxious about Reserve nurses attached to the British Expeditionary Force, should write to the Matron-in-Chief, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, for the number of the Hospital to which they are attached at the front. Letters addressed No.—, General Hospital, British Expeditionary Force, can be posted in the usual way, and it is hoped may reach them—say, sooner or later. Our advice however is if the matter to be communicated is one of very urgent importance, to communicate with the Matron-in-Chief at the War Office, as she is the responsible head of the Army Nursing Department, and should be the direct channel of communication between the relations of nurses sent to the front.

Miss E. M. Pye, General Secretary N.U.T.N., left for Paris last week for a few days; to make arrangements for sending nurses to the *Association des Infirmières Visiteuses de France*. Miss Pye

writes *en route*: "I have just been reading THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and am so thankful to see your fine paragraph on the behaviour of nurses abroad."

We are very glad to know that little Serbia is not to be forgotten. Lady Boyle, and her son, Sir Edward Boyle, who is the treasurer of the Serbian Relief Fund, with a sympathetic committee, have sent out a circular in which they appeal for help: "Serbia" it says "is as much our ally as Russia, and as such is entitled not merely to our esteem but also to assistance of a more practical kind. . . ."

A small detachment of ten British nurses, under the leadership of Mme. Grouitch, is now in Serbia; but these gallant volunteers urgently need further help. How urgently is best proved by the pathetic appeal of the Serbian Government, enjoining strict economy in lint, cottonwool, and hospital appliances.

Any help will be most gratefully received and acknowledged. Parcels of clothes, &c., especially medical and surgical appliances, should be addressed to Lady (Ralph) Paget, at 195, Queen's Gate, S.W.; cheques should be sent to Sir Edward Boyle, Bt., Hon. Treasurer, Serbian Relief Fund, at 63, Queen's Gate, S.W.

The Dumfries police arrested Miss Kate Hume, aged 17, a few days ago in connection with the circulation of the story of the alleged torture and murder of Miss Grace Hume, a Red Cross nurse in Belgium, by German soldiers at Vilvorde, near Brussels, on September 6th.

Details of the supposed crime were said to have been given by another nurse, and a letter alleged to have been written by the dying woman was said to have been produced as evidence of the truth of the story.

On Monday, Miss Hume was charged with having uttered a forged letter purporting to be written by her sister, Miss Grace Hume, in Huddersfield. She was remitted to the Sheriff Court for trial.

The Queen of Belgium plays a very prominent part in the general activities at Antwerp. She is to be seen in the streets every day busily engaged on some mission of mercy or urgent errand. She is constantly in and out of the various hospitals, and most gracious to all the nurses.

It is reported that when the French entered Peronne seventy German female nurses armed with pistols were found. We cannot blame them.

The wounded Germans in Rheims Cathedral were only enabled to escape during the bombardment, thanks to the devotion of the French Sisters of Mercy. Five of these blessed women were killed in accomplishing their courageous mission.

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