

NURSING AND THE WAR.

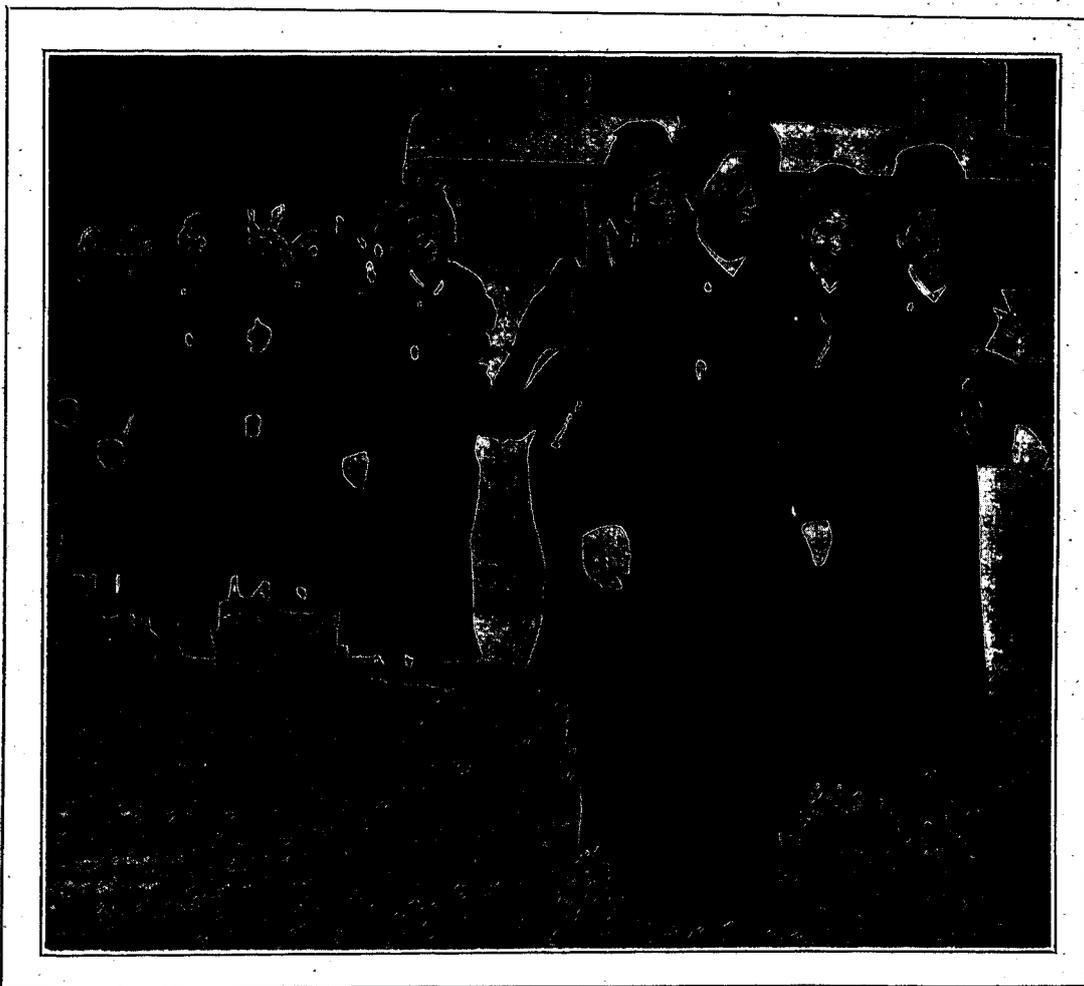
TERRITORIAL NURSING PROBLEMS.

A DIFFICULT POSITION.

When the Territorial Force Nursing Service was founded, the Matrons of civil hospitals, who were entrusted—with the sub-committees of which they act as chairmen—with the selection of the nursing staff, and the maintenance of the Roll,

added responsibility. "I was never," said one Principal Matron "asked whether I was willing to become one or not." The change however imposes more work on the Principal Matrons than they can undertake with advantage to the large training schools, which as a rule they superintend, or to themselves, added to which the position of the Matron is a difficult and delicate one.

We know that Principal Matrons are feeling the strain of their added responsibilities. One of



RED CROSS NURSES AT TOKIO LEAVING FOR TSINGTAU.

were termed Organizing Matrons; they were to keep control of the nursing staff in time of peace, and to automatically retire into the background when the hospitals were mobilized, and one of the two alternative Matrons, selected for the position, was to assume charge of the Nursing Department of the hospital concerned.

Somehow, the Organizing Matrons were changed, to the great disadvantage of the Service in our opinion, into Principal Matrons, and, with the change of title, came unquestionably

them said to us recently that she thought when the War was over that the War Office would have to find some new Principal Matrons, the work was too much for any one woman in addition to her many duties as Matron of a large civil hospital. Yet, if they are held responsible, they feel that they must assume more or less active control in the Territorial Hospitals in a way not originally contemplated, and in this case the Matron falls virtually into the position of Assistant Matron, acting for the Principal Matron in her

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