

Convoy Corps gave in the Balkan War a practical demonstration that women can not only improvise and administer in all its departments a hospital of war with successful results, but that women can, without harm to themselves, or hindrance to others, endure physical hardships and overcome difficulties which, being incidental to conditions of war, may have been supposed to be only appropriate to men.

My practical suggestion for this Conference would then be that the Voluntary Aid Detachments inaugurated under the auspices of the British Red Cross Society and of the St. John Ambulance Association, be regarded as nurseries and stepping stones to a more serious national service for women. Those women who only seek drawing-room amusement would never go beyond the sphere of their V.A.D., but it would be far better for the War Office to have at command a few hundred trained and disciplined women upon whom in national emergency reliance could be placed, than to permit hordes of untrained and undisciplined women to regard themselves as fully qualified to take positions of responsibility in time of war. Those seriously-minded women who have the welfare of the nation and of womanhood at heart, could form themselves into a valuable adjunct of the Territorial Army Medical Corps.

The reputation of women is at stake. It rests with them to take this matter up and see to it that in future any organisation which has for its object the care of the sick and wounded, shall be controlled conjointly by women and by men.

### ASSOCIATION OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF NURSING HOMES.

We are pleased to hear from Mrs. Stabb that the above Society is taking shape, and that a fair number of applications have been received in response to an invitation from the Provisional Committee to join the Association.

The objects of the Association are:—

1. The maintenance of a high standard of Nursing in nursing homes.
2. The promotion of common interests among the Superintendents in the development of their work.
3. The protection of the professional and economic interests of Superintendents.

Membership is open to:—

1. Superintendents holding a three years' certificate of a recognised training school.
2. Members must employ in the actual nursing of their patients only fully certificated nurses, or those with not less than three years' hospital experience.
3. Retired certificated nurses may be elected Honorary members and Honorary Officers.
4. Trained nurses not holding a three-year certificate, may at the discretion of the Committee, be elected members.

#### PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE.

The following lady superintendents have consented to act on the provisional Committee: Miss Bedford, Miss Coulson and Miss Myers, Miss Crozier, Miss Fowler, Miss Habgood and Miss Shepherd, Miss Lightfoot and Miss Holder, Miss Mackintosh, the Misses Phillips, Mrs. Robertson, Miss Slade and Miss Gordon, together with Mrs. Frankau and Mrs. Stabb.

A meeting will be held on Friday, July 17th, at 132, Harley Street, W., for the election of members.

This Association should have a very useful future before it, and we hope it will receive the support not only of Metropolitan Superintendents but of ladies engaged in the care of the sick in home hospitals all over the country. It appears at a psychological moment for these ladies to co-operate, as united action will be needed in the near future, if the regulations to govern the London County Council Act, now before the Local Legislative Committee of the House of Commons, are to be of a useful and non-contentious nature. Professional women with professional and economic interests at stake, cannot afford to stand as helpless individuals, whilst their affairs are being shaped by Acts of Parliament. With co-operation they can make terms. Alas! this seems a very hard lesson for women to learn, but with a little self-sacrifice upon the part of each, much may be done for the welfare and security of all. We wish the Association success.

The Paper on "The Need of Co-operation for Superintendents of Nursing Homes," read by Mrs. Stabb before the National Council of Trained Nurses at Birmingham, is now issued in pamphlet form, and can be obtained from her at 132, Harley Street, London, W.

#### LEAGUE NEWS.

##### THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER INFIRMARY NURSES' LEAGUE.

The City of Westminster Infirmary (late Central London Sick Asylum) Nurses' League, held their Annual Garden-party, which was largely attended, on July 7th. After tea, which was served in the nurses' recreation room, presided over by Miss Elma Smith (the popular President) the members, accompanied by their friends, adjourned to the gardens to play tennis and croquet. Those of a more rural turn of mind elected to wander in Farmland in the fields attached to the Infirmary. As there were two other garden fêtes close by in Hendon, they had the extra advantage of seeing a grand display of daylight fireworks and exhibition of flying machines.

It was with many regrets the members parted for their respective destinations when evening brought the meeting, which had been a great social success, to a close.

League meetings and social gatherings are invariably most enjoyable and friendly functions, greatly appreciated by the members.

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