

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

No. 1,380

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1914.

Vol. LIII.

EDITORIAL.

TERRITORIAL TOPICS.

The mobilization of the hospitals of the Territorial Force has brought to the fore a number of questions connected with the Territorial Force Nursing Service, concerning which a sheaf of letters are lying upon our editorial table. As they are of considerable public and professional importance we propose to discuss the more important.

1. *The Uniform.*—We have been circumstantially informed by members of the higher grades of the Service whose evidence is unimpeachable that it was impossible for them to obtain the material for their uniform because the existing supply was exhausted, and as the material came from abroad (they were informed from Germany) no more was procurable.

Nevertheless, this seemed so incredible that we made enquiries at the Army and Navy Stores, and are informed by a responsible official that such is the case, so far as the Stores are concerned; though the source of supply is France, not Germany. That the Vicereaux suiting is procured by the Stores from Roubaix, not far from Lille, and that it is impossible to get consignments through.

We believe we shall have the whole nation with us when we lay down, as a fundamental principle, that the uniform material worn by all branches of the Military Nursing Service should be of British manufacture, both because public money paid by the taxpayer should go to the support of British Labour, and because members of the Service when called up for duty should not be liable to be kept waiting indefinitely for uniform material impossible to secure from a foreign source, and even prevented, as some nurses have been, from going on duty without it.

2. *Payment for Uniform.*—The next point on which we have received numerous comments is the hardship entailed on nurses who, when called up for duty, have had to pay from five to eight pounds for their Territorial uniform. As one of the emoluments of Territorial nurses on embodiment is eight pounds uniform allowance, per annum, it is presumable that what they have expended will eventually be refunded to them. But, it is nevertheless a hardship that nurses should be required to advance this sum, as their modest salaries, in civil hospitals, do not admit of the sudden drain without great inconvenience. We are strongly of opinion that a small annual allowance should be made to members, when enrolled in the Territorial Force Nursing Service, for uniform, as they are required to wear it when appearing at public functions; and also that when required to provide themselves with additional uniform, when called up for active service, they should receive an order which will be honoured by the War Office, such as is given to members of the Army Nursing Service Reserve. The authorities in availing themselves of the skilled services of hundreds of nurses, should deal generously with these invaluable workers.

3. Our attention has been called by practical members of the Service to the fact that they are at all times required to wear the little cape of grey material bordered with red, which is its distinctive mark; that, in helping to prepare the buildings which have been converted into Territorial hospitals, they have worn these capes during the performance of such duties as sweeping down walls and other necessary cleaning; that when the patients begin to arrive, their attendance on surgical cases in these capes must be a source of danger; and that a cape which can easily be washed should be substituted.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)