

### AT LAST.

At last the British Red Cross Society has realized the necessity of enlisting the assistance of experienced members of the nursing profession in connection with the organization of its Voluntary Aid Detachments, members of which have been largely employed in nursing duties during the last six months, and it is with pleasure we report that on the Special Standing Committee on Voluntary Aid Detachments just formed, under the chairmanship of Mr. E. A. Ridsdale, Miss E. H. Becher, R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, Miss S. A. Swift, Matron-in-Chief of the Nurses' Department under the Joint War Committee, and Miss Davies, Matron of the new King George Hospital, have seats. The Committee includes the Lady Ampthill, the Marchioness of Winchester, the Marchioness of Tullibardine, the Countess of Airlie, Lady Ball, Mrs. Furse, the Lord Onslow, Colonel Magill, Dr. Sandwith, Dr. Lynn Thomas, and Mr. H. M. R. Coventry, Secretary.

We learn from Mr. Ridsdale that it is proposed, in anticipation of a shortage of nurses, to employ tentatively about one hundred V.A.D. members in the capacity of probationers, working under members of the regular Military Nursing Service in two of the largest military hospitals, and, should it prove successful, no doubt this plan would be extended. At present the introduction of V.A.D. members as probationers into Territorial Hospitals is not contemplated. Replying to our representative's remark that if limited to probationers' duties, under the supervision of an adequate proportion of trained nurses, they might do useful work, but the proportion had not been adequate in many instances at present, Mr. Ridsdale remarked if she were referring to arrangements in some of the hospitals not under the control of the War Office, he could not in any way defend them, but, on the whole, he thought the V.A.D. work had been extraordinarily good.

We hope that the widespread interest in the Report sent in to the Director-General of the Army Medical Service by the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, on the Care of the Sick and Wounded, may have influenced the appointment of the Matrons on this Committee, and are of opinion that their advice cannot fail to be of the utmost assistance, and though we are always in favour of radical re-organization, when a system has been found wanting, yet we hope the formation of this Committee is an earnest of better things.

### NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

At the February meeting of the Executive of the National Union of Trained Nurses, a report was given of the "Urgency Cases Field Hospital for the French," which is being organized by the Hon. Sec., Miss Eden, and a committee of experts. The Committee, feeling sure that members of the Union would wish to be identified in some way with this hospital, decided to give them the opportunity of contributing, either in small sums of money or by giving some article from the list below. Miss Curtis has kindly consented to receive and acknowledge such gifts, which should be sent, plainly marked, "National Union of Trained Nurses"; and bear the name, address and Branch of the sender, and should be sent to the Urgency Cases Hospital, 50A, Curzon Street, London, W.

As the nurses for this hospital will be selected from the N.U.T.N. register, applications from those holding a three years' certificate, from hospitals with an average of not less than 100 occupied beds, should be sent in immediately. A salary is offered, in addition to expenses. Knowledge of French will be a recommendation, and robust health is essential.

The following resolutions have been sent from the Executive:—

1. To the Secretary of State for War, on the appointment of Miss Swift as a member of the Joint War Committee.

That the members of the Executive Committee note with pleasure that a member of the nursing profession has been placed upon the Joint War Committee, but in view of the importance of the work undertaken, they feel bound to urge that yet further representation is very desirable.

2. To the Secretary of the Joint War Committee.

The Executive Committee of the National Union of Trained Nurses recommends that a trained professional matron should be in sole charge of the nursing department of all voluntary hospitals for the wounded, and should have authority to deal with the questions in connection with the nurses and nursing matters, and that the appointment of all nurses to such hospitals should be sanctioned by a body on which the nursing profession is represented.

It has been decided to postpone the Annual Council Meeting and to issue a shortened form of the usual annual report only, as so many of the Branch Secretaries are away on active service.

Miss Holberton, late Matron of Paddington Infirmary, has been elected Hon. Treasurer to the Central Council, in place of Miss Hulme (resigned); and all subscriptions which are now due, should be sent to her, at 39, Great Smith Street, Westminster.

List of articles suitable for members' contribution: Blankets, pillows, hospital kits (suits of clothes), dressing gowns, handkerchiefs, sheets, draw sheets, cloths, towels, night shirts, socks, flannel day shirts, bed-jackets, slippers (felt), small hanging washable bags to hold patients' belongings, pneumonia jackets, hot-water bottle covers, sand-bag covers, small cushions and ring pads, and bandages.

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