

subsequent five months the Regular Army Reserve has increased by 1,100, only supports our argument, that "the supply of trained nurses recruited by the War Office has fallen far short of the requirements." We never make a statement in print that we are unable to substantiate, and we used the word "hastily," in connection with the enrolment of the Reserve after the declaration of War, from our own personal experience. We have before us a pithy correspondence (dated the middle of October last) with the Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.I.M.N.S.; it refers to the engagement of nurses then on the staff of the Registered Nurses' Society—which we superintend. These nurses were interviewed at the War Office, engaged, and on duty in a military hospital within a few days—indeed so "hastily" was this arrangement transacted that apparently there was not time to write to the R.N.S. office for any reference concerning them—a method of selection which we felt compelled to suggest to the Matron-in-Chief "is not likely to be in any way conducive to the discipline and good order of the Army Nursing Reserve, or the Society from which the nurses are drawn." To which expression of opinion, she replied, "I do not propose to enter into particulars of the procedure adopted for the selection of nurses by the War Office," a reply which naturally called forth the retort courteous from us "I do not require any further evidence as to the procedure adopted by the War Office, to convince me that it would be well that it should be amended!"

We are pleased to know from Miss Cox Davies that 200 fully qualified ladies already recruited are available immediately their services are required—so that should the 276 members of the Territorial Force Nursing Service, requisitioned by the War Office for service abroad, be required for the staffing of the great increase of Territorial hospitals at home, the deficit in the Regular Reserve of 76 will, we have no doubt, be speedily made good. Indeed, taking into consideration the fact that the War Office proposes to admit 3,000 Voluntary Aid workers into military hospitals, and largely decrease the present number of trained nurses per bed, we consider every effort should be made by the Army Nursing Board to enrol skilled workers at once, and thus maintain as high a proportion of trained nurses as possible for the care of sick and wounded soldiers in the regular military hospitals, for the standard of nursing in which it is responsible.—Ed.]

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES STATEMENT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I always highly value and appreciate THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and until January 30th of this year, I did not think there was any room for higher appreciation. On that day appeared the "Statement" prepared by you for the Director-General of the Army Medical Service. To me it appeared as a masterly exposition, clear, concise, and rich in valuable classified information, concluding with an epitome

of modern nursing history. And the astonishing part of it was, that this valuable Supplement was supplied to the subscribers without any extra charge. When I think of the time, the labour, the concentration, and the mental output that went to produce that wonderful report, I feel that the Nursing profession, and the public are deeply indebted to you, not only for this monumental piece of work, but also because it represents so many years of reforming work for the Nursing profession, by yourself and Miss Breay.

I think if all nurses with complete training, and *esprit de corps*—that is *very* important—could have received and carefully read that important special number of the JOURNAL, they would have realised—if they had never done so before, the meaning and value of a *professional* journal as compared with lay-edited ones; and every one of them would surely have seen the advantage, and the duty, they owe to their profession by subscribing—not spasmodically—but *regularly* to it.

My intention was to have written this letter, and to have acknowledged my indebtedness earlier; please excuse my procrastination.

Yours gratefully,

BEATRICE KENT.

[We regret this letter has been held over for lack of space.—Ed.]

AN INDIGNITY TO WOMEN.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—With reference to the witnessing of operations on women by raw recruits in a London hospital, described by "Paterfamilias," surely if this is true it would be advisable to address to the hospital (which is not named), a letter of protest, signed by some of our representative women. There are, and always have been, patients who resent being a spectacle for even medical students of the opposite sex. Surely women can raise a voice on their behalf in protest against this further indignity.

Yours faithfully,

M. AYRES LUCAS.

Stock Orchard Crescent,
West Holloway, N.

[We should advise our correspondent to communicate with the editor of the *Globe*, in which paper the letter appeared.—Ed.]

NOTICE.

Candidates for the French Flag Nursing Corps from the country can be interviewed by arrangement with Lady Barclay, 60, Nevern Square, Earl's Court, London, S.W. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick will be at 431, Oxford Street, on Friday, March 12th and Monday March 15th, from 2.30 to 5 p.m. to interview candidates. Candidates must be well educated and hold a three years' certificate of training. Nurses speaking French are preferred.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

March 20th.—Show how a nurse may be a "carrier" of infection from one patient to another.
March 27th.—What are colds?

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