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EDITORIAL.

THE IMPERIAL MOTHER.

In the vital struggle, against the forces of barbarism, in which this Empire is now engaged, the country needs the loyal service not only of its men but of its women, and recent events must have convinced the whole community how closely the maintenance of peace, and the duty of making war, affect women, who claim, and have earned, the right to a place as patriots.

To all sentient human beings, whether men or women, the only consolation in times of grief and stress is that they are playing their part worthily, and performing their national duty to the utmost of their ability, and that the fullest scope is given to them to enable them to discharge their national obligations.

For women of British blood, who love their country, to sit still and wait for the coming of grief and disaster is an impossibility, and we have only to glance back over the efforts made by individual groups of women to realize how strenuously they have sought to serve their country since war was declared.

But, it is also apparent, that had they been organized during the time of peace their services might have been of still greater value at this national crisis. Thus duties have been assigned to persons incapable of performing them, and others have been prevented from giving to the nation skilled and invaluable service.

It is unquestionable that women are endowed with the highest sense of duty, and it is intolerable to them to find themselves adrift on a sea of disorganization, and their abilities and enthusiasm wasted.

We claim not only that every man, to whom the responsibility of Empire has been entrusted should be taught how to discharge his national duty, and encouraged to

perform it, but that every woman has also her rightful place in the protection and safety of the Empire.

To her belong the place and duties of the Imperial Mother, a rôle which concerns not only her physical but her spiritual nature, and in this sense the field of woman's work is of most vital importance, and of practically unlimited influence.

Nor need the Imperial Mother of necessity be the mother of men. Her country is her child, on which it is her pleasure to lavish her deepest love and devotion.

The thriftless muddle, resulting from our self-indulgent standards of living is now apparent, and if the great jewel of the British Empire is still to blaze in the central place of the Crown of Nations the spiritual forces of the whole nation, man, woman and child, must inspire those who grasp the flaming sword which guards its place of honour.

The Nursing Profession comes more intimately into touch with the personnel of war than any other class of women, and the National Council of Trained Nurses composed of the most progressive groups of our profession, are to hold a Conference in London on June 10th, not only to discuss the duty of the trained nurse in time of war but the place and duties of the Imperial Mother in peace and war.

Details of the Conference will be found upon another page, and we have no doubt that upon a question so urgent, so patriotic and so vital women workers of diverse interests will eagerly seek admission.

The President of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland will present her suggestions for a National "Scheme for Social Service in relation to the Soldier," and will propose the organization of a new Order of Sisters for special service both in time of peace and war for the benefit of the Navy and Army.

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