

A WORD FOR OUR RECRUITS.

Nowadays, when we are all eager to help our country in some way or other, it may not be out of place to point out some of those little kindnesses that we can all do for our recruits. The wounded are being well taken care of and they deserve it; the Belgian refugees are being cheered with a real English welcome; but many of us somehow forget the recruits. They also deserve all we can give them. They are doing what so many of us would like to do, and they are giving themselves freely, but in some cases at great cost. To illustrate my meaning, I will give instances from my own knowledge. One young fellow who has been a valued clerk in a lawyer's office for some time has just "crammed" for his first law examination—of course, with a view to getting his articles and becoming a solicitor. He is engaged, too, and is a steady and intellectual type of his class. When the call came he answered it, without waiting to know whether the place could be kept open for him, or if he would lose that and his salary. He was rejected by the doctor the first time he went to be examined. He had had a mentally exhausting time, and he felt seedy just at the critical moment. However, he tried again and was accepted. Now he has had a fortnight's experience of life as a recruit. I asked him if there was anything one could send that would be specially acceptable. He then told me that they could get no milk, no butter, and that a straw bed and one thin blanket is all they have to sleep in. Now there are blanket clubs all over the country, and I determined to start one for the benefit of the fifteen recruits that have gone from our little town in this last fortnight. It was only when I began collecting that I realised how willing people are to give when they know how and where the money will be spent. In one day I got seven blankets and was given over 15s., and then friends suggested that parcels should be sent to the recruiting depôts at regular intervals.

Now, think what this life means to some recruits. Those who have led a sedentary life suffer terribly with sore feet, and they cannot sleep on account of the noise and the number of others in the room. Then the young men from farms and villages require plenty of food, and many of them have no money for anything extra. Here, I think, is our chance. Surely we could do much for them. Every man should have a cholera belt. They can be knitted, or cut out of flannel and shaped, or a many-tailed flannel bandage will do. Then there are many little things that we can send, trifles in themselves, but so precious to the men. I would suggest condensed milk by way of foodstuff, and the following oddments: Packets of stationery (penny packets), pencils, pens, ink, boric acid in a penny pepper-pot for the feet, permanganate of potash, vaseline, court plaster, buttons, needles, cotton, odd bits of soft linen and rag, also bits of cloth for polishing, mustard leaves. The first parcel should contain a list and details as to the use of things like boric acid and pot. permang.

Of course, the penny packets of "Woodbines" are most welcome, but I would suggest that more

useful things should be sent by us, and that men should be asked to help with the cigarettes. They are always willing to do so, I have found. In fact, only yesterday a friend, hearing of my parcel, at once gave me a box of fifty packets of Woodbines.

I hope these suggestions will be useful to those nurses who want to do something definite, but who do not know how to begin. The parcel should be sent straight to the men. It is easy to get the exact address of barracks where men from one's own town are stationed.

D. V.

GOD DEFEND THE RIGHT.

As we go to press the "Service of Humble Prayer to Almighty God," on behalf of the Nation and the Empire, after one year of war, is being held in St. Paul's Cathedral. It is well that all estates of the realm, from the monarch to the humblest of his subjects should thus meet for worship in the Metropolitan Cathedral. From its pulpit last year the Bishop of the diocese bid our soldiers "forth, and God defend the right." Some of those present have since made the supreme sacrifice, and a reminder of the stern realities of war are the wounded sailors and soldiers, and the members of the Nursing Services of the Imperial Forces under the dome, but still the Empire, confident of the justice of the cause in which it has drawn the sword, prays, "God defend the right."

THE INQUIRY DEPARTMENT OF THE RED CROSS.

The Inquiry Department of the Red Cross for the Wounded, Missing, and Prisoners of War is moving from the rooms at 20, Arlington Street, hitherto lent them by Lord Salisbury, to 31, St. James's Square, where the Duke of Norfolk has placed the first floor at their disposal.

Letters of inquiry should be addressed to the Secretary, Inquiry Department of the Red Cross, Norfolk House, 31, St. James's Square, London.

STATE REGISTRATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

The registration laws of several states have been changed. The new law of Connecticut provides for inspection of training schools, compensating the members of the board for their time, increasing the secretary's salary, adding materia medica to the subjects for examination, planning for reciprocity with other states and requiring an examination in genito-urinary diseases for male applicants. But little opposition was met by the Connecticut Legislative Committee and they feel their campaign to have been most satisfactory.

Nebraska's original bill was passed in 1909 and has been radically changed. Registration was formerly under the control of the Board of Health. The new law provides for nominations by the State Association of Nurses, admits nurses under a waiver, provides for reciprocity, and makes registration compulsory.

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