

## NURSING AND THE WAR.

The huts, which contain some 500 beds, at St. Thomas's Hospital, and which for long have been used as a military hospital in London, have now been formally recognised by the War Office as No. 5 London (City of London) General Hospital, and upon the recommendation of the Committee of the Territorial Force Nursing Service for the City and County of London, Miss A. Lloyd Still, the Matron of St. Thomas's Hospital, has been appointed Principal Matron.

Miss Eliza M. Vesey, Assistant Matron at St. Thomas's, has been appointed Matron, and a full staff of Sisters and nurses, mostly trained at St. Thomas's, has been selected.

Miss Violetta Thurston will speak on "Red Cross Work in Belgium and Russia" at a special meeting for girls, in connection with the Annual Conference of the National Union of Women Workers in the Central Hall, Westminster, on October 4th, at 3 p.m.

The leading nurses' corporations, which have, through good management, built up such good connections for their staffs during the past twenty years, are faced with difficulties in the immediate future. During peace, patriotic committees of such societies encouraged the nurses to volunteer for the Territorial Force Nursing Service and the Navy and Army Reserve, so that when war was declared a large number of these nurses were called up for active service. This was quite as it should be, but the fact that the war may last indefinitely has depleted private nursing staffs to a minimum, as the rush "to the front" by all and sundry has been extraordinary. The fact is that "nursing the sick" is no longer the first objective of the nursing profession, but "nursing the soldiers," and for private nursing, district nursing, Poor Law nursing and in the smaller hospitals there are very few applicants.

There is, however, another aspect of the case. Many private and district nurses between 38 and 40 have been working in military hospitals for upwards of a year. They have found the ward work very arduous after their lighter duties; they have given a year's very good service, and now, in our opinion, is the time when such women should be permitted to retire from active service if they wish. During the year some thousands of younger women have been trained and certificated; these should be recruited systematically and engaged for military service, and thus permit the older, and in some instances really very tired nurses to return to their usual avocations. Their services are greatly needed by the community at large, and having served a year, they should be thanked for their honourable services, and not designated deserters if the strain on their health impels them to take lighter work.

Miss H. Maclean, the Matron-in-Chief of the New Zealand Nursing Service, has returned to

New Zealand from Egypt, much to the regret of many friends who had hoped to see her again in England. Miss Maclean waited in Egypt the arrival of two contingents of nurses and for the New Zealand Hospital ship with its staff of nurses. There are now 150 New Zealand nurses working in the Dominion's two hospitals at Cairo and Port Said, and in various other military hospitals in Alexandria and Cairo. Miss Maclean writes regretting she cannot bid her friends in England good-bye, and says "possibly some day in times of peace I may have an opportunity of visiting England again." Much important work awaits her at home in connection with her duties as Assistant Registrar of Nurses in the Dominion, where every nurse has to be prepared for the Central Examination preparatory to registration.

Personally we do not believe in the hushing up policy pursued in the conduct of this War, and why the very numerous deaths of our brave nurses in Serbia from typhoid fever have never been notified in the press we cannot imagine. We learn of a long sad list—to record them will in no way prevent other nurses offering their services. Indeed, it will inspire the best to fill their vacant places.

Forty nurses and orderlies left on Saturday last en route for the Scottish Women's Hospitals (N.U.W.S.S.) in Serbia. Owing to the renewal of hostilities it has been found necessary to reinforce the hospital units already working in Serbia. Some of the nurses and orderlies are courageously replacing the members of Dr. Alice Hutchison's unit stationed at Valjevo who are at present suffering from enteric. According to the last telegrams received Drs. Bignold and Sharp are now out of danger.

### RELIEF DETACHMENT FOR THE HOSPITAL AT VALJEVO, UNDER DR. HUTCHISON.

The following formed the units which left for Serbia last Saturday:—

Doctors.—Mrs. Hope, M.B., Ch.B., Mr. Hope, B.A., M.B., Ch.B.

Nurses.—H. J. Bayne, M. Berry, F. M. Caton, E. Clement, S. A. Donovan, J. P. Dow, A. M. Evans, J. Ferguson, Emma Gordon, C. G. Hall, F. Hamer, McN. Hay, A. S. T. Hislop, J. C. Lamb, J. Morris, M. Oldfield, E. Richards, A. Saunders, R. B. Smith, R. E. Strange, E. Walmsley, A. G. Williams, M. Wilson.

Orderlies, dispenser, cooks, and laundry.

### RELIEF DETACHMENT FOR THE HOSPITAL AT KRAGUIEVATZ, UNDER DR. INGLIS.

Matron.—Miss B. Bedford.

Nurses.—M. J. Ewart, J. Gibson, G. Jones, E. W. Wright, E. Pettigrew.

Orderlies, cook and driver.

The *Galeka* hospital ship has recently brought home nearly five hundred wounded who need operations, from Malta. It carries a staff of

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