

misleading, and likely to cause endless confusion. Why should not the untrained take up the cooking and domestic duties in our hospitals, and be known as 'Voluntary helpers,' receiving thanks and appreciation for their much-needed work, without invading the ranks of trained nurses? The registration of nurses, obtaining first in New Zealand, gained us the approbation of our colleagues the world over, and we feel we have a right to safeguard our privileges. We do not in any way wish to detract from the usefulness of the voluntary workers."

THE MINISTER'S REPLY.

The Minister replied to Miss Jones as follows:—"I am well aware of the Association that has been formed in Christchurch to provide assistance to our nurses, not, as you say, to provide unskilled nursing. The members of this Association are merely washing and cooking, and helping the nurses in any way they are able, such as looking after the linen, typewriting, &c. Please do not think they are doing the nursing. We have twenty - nine trained nurses at Trentham; the others are assisting them in the manner I have mentioned, and their services are much appreciated by both the nurses and the Department. The understanding is that they are to be regarded as probationers, not as nurses or as nursing sisters. I quite understand that there is some feeling amongst the registered nurses with regard to them, but this is altogether due to a misunderstanding. If there is any further information I can supply, please communicate with me."

THE PLEDGE.

We think that the Minister for Public Health cannot have read a copy of the objects printed

above, or the Pledge taken by the "Sisters," the opening sentence of which runs as follows:—

"We, the undersigned, gladly and freely offer one year, or more, of our lives for the service at home or abroad of nursing and tending sick and wounded, and we promise to obey cheerfully and readily all orders given to us by those in authority."

The Imperial military authorities at home, however, disapproved of the suggestion that

New Zealand should send a corps of uncertificated nurses, or first aid workers to base hospitals in Egypt or elsewhere, so that the well-meaning enthusiasts will presumably remain in the Dominion.

The fact is that the Medical Department of the War Office has already sanctioned the sending of several hundred untrained women to help in the hospitals in Egypt and at Malta, an arrangement which has caused great heart-burnings throughout the Territorial Force Nursing Service in the United Kingdom.

Hundreds of sick and wounded men are now coming to England from the Dardanelles to find themselves well provided with hospital care. Quite recently 100 Canadians were brought to the Duchess of Connaught's Hospital at Cliveden,

where there is now accommodation for nearly nine hundred patients. The wounded had a very cheering welcome from the spectators and were soon at rest in new garments in comfortable beds. The Canadian Red Cross is to be congratulated on the efficiency of its hospital work—including the nursing, of course. We hear that the cost all told of providing trained nurses from Canada, including work abroad, pans out at about £1 a day. This may surprise them.

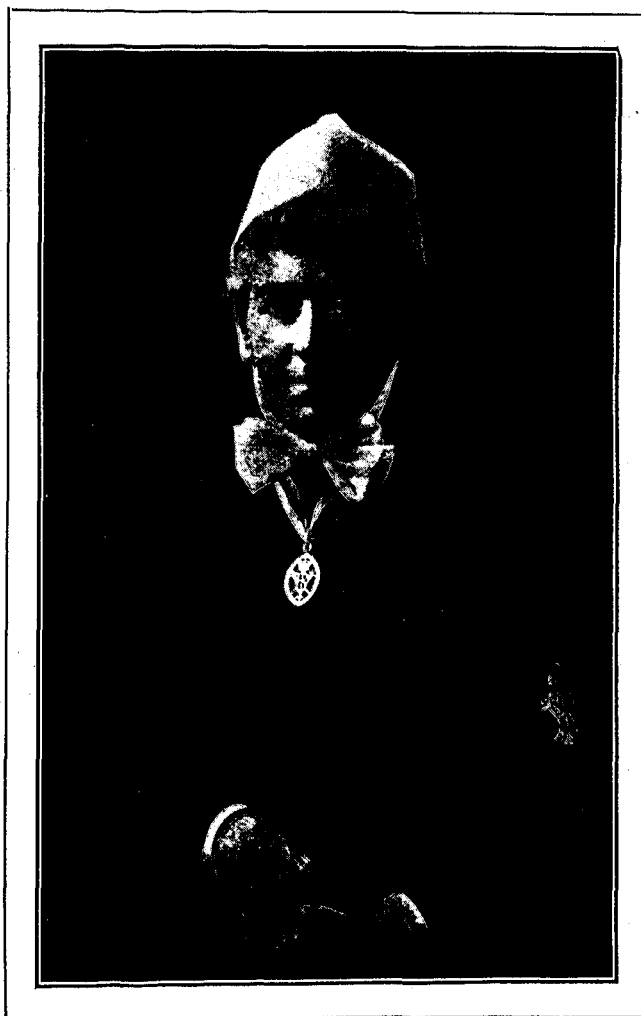


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MISS JANET ST. CLAIR.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)