

### NURSING AND THE WAR.

The tragedy of war is nowhere felt more poignantly than in the Royal Houses of Europe, where intermarriage and close relationships cause a division of sympathies bringing acutest pain. In this connection no one is more intimately affected than H.I.M. the Czarina of Russia, whose sympathies with the land of her adoption and with that of her birth are necessarily divided.

A daughter of our own Princess Alice, she has British blood in her veins, she is a German Princess of the House of Hesse-Darmstadt, the devoted wife of the Czar of all the Russias, and the mother of the Russian Heir-Apparent. Fate has dealt hardly with her in thus allying her so closely to the great nations now fighting one another to the death, and the portrait of Her Imperial Majesty which we publish in the beautiful national dress of her adopted country bears the impress of mental struggle and grief.

The Army Medical Department of the War Office is proverbially slow to accept a new idea on military nursing, and unfortunately it has few progressive and at the same time sound economic ideas of its own. We are not surprised though we regret to learn of the very bitter feeling amongst a great number of members of the Territorial Force Nursing Service. We have recently received many private letters on the lowering of the standard of nursing, and in consequence of the status of the nursing staff. We hope therefore that our suggestion to organize a Sanitary Nursing Service will not be snuffed out, until too late, by the powers that be. There are several Matrons in sympathy with sound nursing principles on the Army Nursing Board, and on the Advisory

Nursing Board T.F.N.S., who must realise the urgent necessity for such a Service to carry out the sanitary system of the medical staff, and also to help locally Medical Officers of Health.

They know, or ought to know, of the camp waste, of dirty billets, of clean men infected with lice, scabies, and other filthy conditions, of serious cases of illness which might have been avoided, by preventive nursing care. We claim that drastic reform is required in connection with the lives of young soldiers:

(1) Good housing conditions; (2) Nutritious diet and no waste; (3) Care of clothing and laundry; (4) Elementary instruction in personal hygiene; (5) Facilities for personal cleanliness; (6) Trained nursing Sisters, with a sanitary qualification, to observe and report to the medical officer on the deviation of the normal in health, and to render first aid nursing in camps and billets. Members of the Service to act as Inspectors in the domestic and nursing departments are required.

It is now close on a year since we offered these suggestions to the Medical Department at the War Office, and so far no effective organization has taken place.

Camp waste is now a crying scandal, and tinkering at scientific domestic management and sanitary

conditions is useless. A complete Sanitary Nursing system (and we, of course, include dietetics as fundamental) should be organized, and if the present Army Nursing Board are unable to evolve it let them include women upon it, who have creative ideas and know how to carry them into effect. We fear, however, that this is contrary to the spirit of Army Medical policy, which is essentially conservative and intolerant of criticism.

Apparently a beginning is to be made to cope



Photo.]

[Boissonnas.]

H.I.M. THE CZARINA OF RUSSIA.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)