

with bad cooking and waste. We learn that this week a number of female teachers of domestic economy will be sent to certain military camps to instruct the cooks and their orderlies in the economical preparation of food; and other parties will be formed with a similar object during the holidays. The many complaints of waste in the camps prompted these ladies to offer their services to the War Office; and they will be given the temporary authority of non-commissioned officers, so that their instructions may have the weight of commands. But what we ask for is a well thought out and comprehensive scheme for the benefit of the Army as a whole.

Miss M. Clarke, who was recently mentioned in Despatches, and was also one of the recipients of the Royal Red Cross, bestowed amongst the Birthday Honours, was trained at the Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool, and is a member of the Civil Hospitals Reserve of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, being one of the first to be sent abroad last August. Quiet and unassuming, she is devoted to her work, which she always makes her first consideration.

Miss Clarke belongs to Co. West Meath, and recently spent a short holiday with her own people, returning to France on the 11th inst. Needless to say, she has received many congratulations, both from her training school and in her native county, on her well-earned honours.

Lady Desborough has placed Taplow Court at the disposal of the Committee of the Queen Mary Hostel for Nurses, 1, Tavistock Place, W.C., to be used as an annexe to the Hostel, where a nurse returned from the Front needing rest and change can be received as a guest. This is a most kind thought, which is sure to be much appreciated.

Two teachers recently applied to the Education Committee, Shipley, Yorkshire, for six months' leave of absence, "owing to the scarcity of nurses for military work," and after some discussion, the committee agreed to grant them leave of absence. Councillor Rhodes, supporting the request of one of the teachers for "a grant of salary or compensation," then proposed that a grant not exceeding £20 should be made to each teacher. The Chairman said it was not

right to make such grants out of the Education rate, and moved that none be made to the teachers, an amendment, which, we are glad to say, was carried.

A good deal of nonsense is talked about the "urgent need for nurses," and sentimental appeals are made to education authorities by teachers for permission to volunteer for work in military hospitals, frequently combined with an attempt to make the best of both worlds and to secure "compensation" from the authorities concerned as well as the salary paid by the War Office, which is more than ample for their unskilled services as War probationers. This is a form of "patriotism" to which taxpayers and ratepayers may reasonably object.

The suggestion that there is an "urgent need for nurses" is not supported in well-informed quarters. Moreover, there are behind the nurses of the United Kingdom, well-trained nurses from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and elsewhere; and the United States of America have also sent many to our assistance.

At the Higginbotham Nursing Home, 218, Bath Street, Glasgow, the nurses one day last week met together to do honour to Nurse Ferguson, who is home from France on a week's leave. Nurse Ferguson was one of the Queen's nurses on the staff at the home when war broke out, and was called up at the beginning of August under the Civil Hospitals Reserve. She was mentioned in Sir John French's despatch of

June 22nd, and has been awarded the Royal Red Cross. The nurses presented Miss Ferguson with a souvenir of the occasion, and sweets and cigarettes to take back with her to the wounded soldiers under her charge. Nurse Barnet, also a member of the staff home on leave, who has been nursing in France under the Joint War Committee since October, was also present at the gathering. She also received a little souvenir, and gifts for her patients.

Miss Pritchard, the Lady Superintendent of the Hull Jubilee District Nursing Association, with the sanction and hearty goodwill of the Committee, offered her services to the War Office, and is now working in Serbia, from whence she writes cheerfully of her work.



MISS M. CLARKE, R.R.C.
Mentioned in Despatches.

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