

### THE KING'S MESSAGE.

In the General Order issued by the King to the Officers, N.C.O.'s and Men at the close of his recent visit to his Army in France His Majesty said:—

"I have realised not only the splendid work which has been done in immediate touch with the enemy—in the air, under ground as well as on the ground—but also the vast organisations behind the fighting line, honourable alike to the genius of the initiators and to the heart and hand of the workers. Everywhere there is proof that all, men and women, are playing their part, and I rejoice to think their noble efforts are being heartily seconded by all classes at home. . . .

"I return home more than ever proud of you.

"May God guide you to victory."

### NURSING UNDER THE AMERICAN RED CROSS.

In reply to enquiries on up-to-date organisation of the American Red Cross, we have received the following information from Miss Jane A. Delano, the Chairman of the National Committee:—

"Our nursing service was organised seven years ago, and was based upon the affiliation of the American Nurses' Association with the American Red Cross. A National Committee was appointed, representing both organisations. They were made responsible for the appointment of State Committees on Red Cross Nursing Service from nominations submitted by the State Nurses' Association. The State Committees on Red Cross Nursing Service are responsible for the appointment of as many local committees as may be necessary in each State to take charge of the enrolment of Red Cross nurses; the local committees in turn are nominated by the local organisations or organisations of nurses representing the majority in the locality. In this way we place the responsibility directly upon the nurses' organisations. The local committees are responsible for securing the necessary credentials for applications and for all investigation relative to the standing of the nurse, and forward their applications to Red Cross Headquarters with recommendation regarding their appointment. The papers are finally reviewed in my office, and if approved by me, appointment cards and badges are sent to the individual nurses and their names are kept on file both with the local committee and at Red Cross Headquarters. Red Cross nurses are expected to hold themselves in readiness for service in time of war and may volunteer in local disasters or for service in relief stations established by the Red Cross Chapters in connection with celebrations, parades, or at other times where conditions make these relief stations desirable.

The local committee is responsible for calling out nurses, but is not allowed to do so except with authority of the National Committee.

"We are now developing base hospital units for service in the event of war, grouping these units around our large hospitals and training schools, such as Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, the Presbyterian Hospital and Bellevue Hospital, New York City, and many others in various sections of the country. In most instances the Superintendent of the Training School, or her assistant, is the chief nurse of the unit, and selects from among her own graduates a well-balanced personnel of 50 nurses, with a reserve of 15. All must, of course, be enrolled in the usual way. They will take charge of base hospital units as established, while the nurses selected through our local committees would go direct to the military hospitals and serve under the direction of the chief nurses of the Army and Navy Nurse Corps.

"Realising that, in the event of war, it would be absolutely impossible to control a volunteer service of women without some definite organisation, I suggested several months ago that the service of lay women be placed under the nursing service of the Red Cross, and that to each base hospital unit organised we should definitely assign twenty-five lay women who would be called upon for service in the event of war. It seemed far better to me to have this personnel placed under the chief nurse, making her responsible for the women selected, their instruction and their supervision if called upon for service, than to wait until an emergency arose and then be unable to control the situation. The chief nurse of each hospital unit has been left entirely free in the selection of the lay personnel, except for the supervision from this office. We have arranged not only for their theoretical instruction, but, if the chief nurse desires, they may be taken into the wards of the hospital for a period not to exceed three hours a day, six days in a week, for one month, and work under the direction of a nurse connected with the unit. From the very beginning this gives them the benefit of working under the direction of the nurses, and should we be so unfortunate as to find it necessary to call out our base hospital units, we shall be in a position to state definitely to the thousands who will volunteer for service that our selections have already been made and that we have a long waiting list as each chief nurse is requested to carry a reserve of twenty-five lay women whom she has selected in addition to the twenty-five assigned to the unit. I believe that this will prove a practical and satisfactory arrangement, but we can judge better after it has been tried out.

"I am sure that you will agree with me that nothing presents greater difficulties than the control of volunteers in time of war, and I shall be very glad of your opinion in regard to the plan which we have worked out. I have watched with much interest and sympathy the situation in England."

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