

## NURSING AND THE WAR.

The King paid a visit to Oxford last week, and called on the sick and wounded in the Southern General Hospital, where he was received by Lieutenant-Colonel Ranking, the administrator; Miss Watt, the Matron; and Miss White. All the wards were visited, and the King spoke to many of the wounded soldiers, who were delighted with his kind manner and interest in their sufferings. As he left, the convalescent patients raised hearty cheers. The nursing staff were well to the fore, neat and speckless in their becoming uniform.

We are indebted to the *British Australian* for the loan of the portraits of Private Jackson, V.C., and the Australian nurses. Sister Boissier (in the centre) holds the R.R.C. for service in Egypt, and is evidently delighted that her brave compatriot has also received royal recognition for heroic service to the Empire.

We congratulate Mr. Lloyd George, the new Secretary of State for War, on appointing a committee to consider the existing system of obtaining nurses for the hospitals for sick and wounded soldiers at home and abroad, and to make such recommendations as they may consider necessary for augmenting the supply—a step we strongly urged upon the late Secretary of State for War and the Army Medical Department in 1914; but we, with other professional nurses, take the very strongest exception to the constitution of the committee now appointed, in that it entirely excludes expert nursing opinion, as there is not one qualified nurse upon it.

### SUPPLY OF NURSES COMMITTEE.

The Supply of Nurses Committee consists of the following members:—

Mr. W. C. Bridgeman, M.P., one of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury.

Viscount Knutsford, Chairman, London Hospital.

Sir Frederick Treves, Bt., Consulting Surgeon, London Hospital.

The Hon. Francis Curzon.

Mrs. Furse, Commandant-in-Chief of the Women's Voluntary Aid Detachments.

Captain Harold Boulton, Vice-Chairman, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses; and member House Committee London Hospital.

Mr. E. W. Morris, House-Governor and Secretary, London Hospital; with

Mr. T. R. Walrond, as Secretary.

In the name of thousands of trained nurses, we claim that before the conditions of their professional work is enquired into, experienced members of their profession should be added to the Committee.

The truth is that hundreds of self-respecting trained nurses absolutely refuse to work in war hospitals under the direction of untrained Commandants, and before they consent to do so, the present indefensible system must be abolished.

The omission of professional representation on this "Supply of Nurses Committee," is a very serious reflection on the status of the Nursing Profession, and it is adding insult to injury that the Commandant-in-Chief (herself untrained) of a system they hold in detestation should be the only woman appointed to consider their economic condition. Let the Secretary of State for War make haste to rectify this most impolitic omission, or there will be a very justifiable expression of indignation upon the part of those upon whom this slur has been cast.



MISS ETHEL HUTCHINSON,  
Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve,  
who has been awarded the Military Medal.

### THE REGISTRATION OF V.A.D.s.

We quote the following leader, under the title of "The

Nursing Profession," from Monday's *Times*, which is for all practical purposes the organ of the British Red Cross and Voluntary Aid Movement. A straw shows how the wind blows!

"The service rendered by nurses during the war has added lustre to a noble calling. We rejoice, therefore, that certain difficulties which have arisen, more especially in regard to the system of obtaining nurses for military hospitals, are about to form the subject of consideration by a Committee, particulars of which we published on Saturday. Lord Knutsford, chairman of the London Hospital, Sir Frederick Treves, Mrs. Furse, Commandant-in-Chief of the Women's Voluntary Aid Detachments, and Captain Boulton, vice-chairman of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute

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