

NURSING AND THE WAR.

The King has been pleased to confer the Royal Red Cross 2nd class on Miss Margery Gertrude Burn, Nursing Staff, Universities' Mission.

The story of the 76 sisters, who, with Miss Dowse, the matron, were on board the hospital ship *Britannic*, when, in defiance of international law as well as the laws of humanity, she was sunk by an enemy submarine, adds one more chapter to those already recorded of the valour of British nurses. The ship was bound for Mudros, to take on board the sick and wounded there, and the staff were at breakfast when the explosion occurred. They went on deck and lined up, calmly awaiting the launching of the boats. One of the officers of the R.A.M.C. stated to a special correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* at Athens, "I know that women can be brave, but I never dreamed they could rise to such heights of cool, unflinching courage as those nurses did when under Miss Dowse, the matron, they lined up on deck like so many soldiers, and unconcernedly and calmly waited their turn to enter the boats.

"We men are proud of them, and we can only hope England will hear of their courage. They were magnificent."

The sisters have lost everything they had on board, medals, watches, money—but Miss Dowse pocketed the fork she was using at breakfast when the explosion occurred as a souvenir.

The Secretary of the War Office announces that Lieut.-Colonel Sir J. K. Fowler, K.C.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P., has been appointed a member of the Supply of Nurses Committee, in place of Sir Frederick Treves, resigned.

It is to be hoped that this Committee will hurry up with its report, and that it will not hesitate to make very plain some of the reasons why the shortage of trained nurses is stated to be so acute. We learn that there is very strong feeling amongst

military hospital nurses, both at home and abroad, at the cutting down of their allowances, especially with the great increase of mess expenses. Also, naturally, trained women strongly resent the autocratic power of untrained commandants, who wear nurses' uniform and generally assume a knowledge of nursing, concerning which their experience is naturally most superficial. The profession will await an expression of opinion upon the part of the Supply Committee on these points, and it is to be hoped there will be no ambiguity concerning them. We believe a few persons have spoken plainly before the Committee on these two nursing questions.



MRS. ELBOROUGH.

A correspondent sends us a note of the outfit required by each member of a unit recently sent to Roumania. £12 was allowed for these articles, the cost of which was greatly in excess of that sum. 1 blue coat, 1 leather lining for same, 1 mackintosh, 1 blue felt hat, 1 soft hat for travelling, 1 stuff dress, 3 cotton dresses, 1 soft jersey, 2 mackintosh aprons, 2 bloomer suits, 10 linen aprons, 4 Army caps, 1 pair high rubber boots, 1 pair goloshes, 2 pairs strong boots, 2 pairs ward shoes, warm gloves, mittens, winter and summer underclothing, 1 small cabin trunk, tin or leather, 1 holdall. The mackintosh aprons and high rubber boots and bloomer suits are for typhus nursing.

The nursing staff of the base hospital at Sheffield are installed in comfortable quarters at Southbourne, until August, 1914 the Men's Hostel for the Training College, which accommodates just a hundred nurses. Even the billiard room of the main mansion has been metamorphosed, the table sent to the Western Road Hospital, and the suites of green stained furniture so arranged as to divide it as far as possible into dormitories. The bed-sitting rooms of the students are allotted to the sisters and nurses, and the V.A.D.s are in possession of the men's common room and library. An excellent Norwegian cook adds to the comfort of the establishment.

Mrs. Elborough, one of the Secretaries of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)