

co-operation of the British Red Cross Society, to arrange the details of the scheme at an early date.

What the nursing profession wants to know is what are the recommendations of the Committee concerning trained nurses. The War Office has atoned for its mistake in depriving them of allowances, and has wisely raised salaries, but there is the vital question of professional responsibility in Military Auxiliary Hospitals. Is the Committee going to recommend the abolition of the untrained Commandant or not? It is vital to the organisation of military nursing on a sound basis, and if it is shirked, no real reform is possible.

We note that a Sunday paper asks the question, "When is a Matron not a Matron?" and replies as follows:—

"Every woman who has known what it is to work hard and take a pride in her profession will sympathise with the trained nurses in the auxiliary hospitals who have had to suffer so much at the hands of the great ladies who run (and pay for) these hospitals.

"One of the nursing journals has been expressing itself very strongly once more on the injustice of the entirely untrained taking the titles which should be sacred to the profession.

"If a rich woman has her house accepted as an auxiliary hospital by the military authorities there seems to be nothing to prevent her from calling herself 'matron' and ruling it as she wills, although she may not know the difference between a poultice and a fomentation.

"Apparently the War Office cannot afford to do away with these voluntarily-supported hospitals and meanwhile dare not offend their wealthy and generous 'matrons' by insisting that every hospital should have a fully qualified matron in supreme command."

Nurse Agnes Mann, who is at present on military hospital service at Salonika, has been awarded the Cross of Charity, a Serbian decoration. She is the daughter of Mrs. Mann, 12, Souterford Road, Inverurie, and was with Lady Paget's unit in Serbia, and for some months was a prisoner in the Bulgarians' hands. She left with one of the Scottish Women's Hospital units for Serbia, and was transferred to Lady Paget's unit.

The Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem has offered to the Queen of Italy, as a Christmas gift £10,000 worth of hospital and medical stores for the use of the Italian wounded. Her Majesty has appointed the Duke of Fragnito to consult with the official of the Joint War Committee as to the most acceptable gifts, and the Duke, accompanied by medical and other experts, is now on his way to London for this purpose. Queen Elena, when expressing her appreciation of the gift, suggested that the stores should directly

benefit those who have suffered mutilation in the war.

FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

Mrs. K. E. Kiero Watson, Matron of the Anglo-French Hospitals Committee (British Red Cross and Order of St. John), has intimated to the Committee of the Corps: "I am authorised to say that the following suggestion has been submitted to the Director-General Army Medical Service and has received his approval:—

"That before any nurse holding a certificate of three years' general training is accepted under the Anglo-French Committee, and given an Anglo-French certificate for work with the Allies, she must have applied to the War Office for the Army Nursing Service, and hold a memorandum from the War Office saying that she is not accepted or not required at present, and therefore is free to take up other work for not less than three months."

We cannot imagine any responsible Committee being satisfied to engage these "ticket-of-leave" nurses for serious professional work with our Allies. Naturally the War Office will engage all those whose credentials are of the best, and, as we have said before, only the best nurses are eligible for service with the F.F.N.C., so that the new "suggestion" is calculated to curtail the fine international work of the Corps which is so warmly appreciated by our French Allies, and proves lack of sympathy with individual initiative for their relief in those who frame such stultifying "suggestions."

The following is the latest instruction received from the Anglo-French Hospitals Committee:—

"In reference to the memorandum recently issued to the effect that all trained nurses wishing to work under the Anglo-French Committee must first put their services at the disposal of the War Office for enrolment for the Army Nursing Service Reserve if required, it has now been arranged that, instead of personally applying to the Matron-in-Chief at the War Office, they should apply to the Matron of the Anglo-French Committee, 83, Pall Mall, S.W., who will apply for the necessary sanction from the War Office."

Quite a number of intelligent trained nurses will not offer their services to the War Office because they will not sign the present agreement, which places their professional reputation, and consequently their power of earning a living, at the mercy of the officials. Several cases have been brought to our notice recently, one in particular, in which the nurses on the Reserve have grave cause for complaint, but apparently no redress. The wording of this agreement needs drastic revision and that speedily. We are glad to hear that Miss Nina Boyle and Miss Beatrice Kent have drawn the attention of the Chairman of the Nurses' Supply Committee to this "little bit of Bochimism."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)