

NURSING AND THE WAR.

A beautiful wreath inscribed "Lest we Forget," was placed on the plinth of Florence Nightingale's statue on April 19th, to the memory of the Nursing Sisters lost in the Red Cross ships *Asturias* and *Salta*, by the medical staff of the *Aquitania*.

We hear in the journalistic world that it is thought well in high quarters that the veil of silence cast over the magnificent work of our splendid professional nurses during the war, should be judiciously lifted for just a peep at their prowess, as they have been somewhat cast in the shade by the public praise lavished upon untrained women, who have monopolised all the limelight on the nursing stage since the beginning of the war.

We feel sure that our Military Nursing Sisters, whose heroism is assured, have no desire whatever to compete in pictorial print with what are known as the "Peeress Nurses," whose charms are so lavishly displayed in a variety of nursing uniforms in every available paper—or to be classed in any way with the "Dill-Binkies"—dubbed "fashionable asses" by our keen-tongued Florence Nightingale so long ago as the fifties.

The professional nurse only desires not to be patronised, and to be permitted to go about her business caring for our sick and wounded to the utmost of her ability—and, if possible, saving their precious limbs and lives. Their gratitude is all the reward she really values. Of course, should an R.R.C. or a Military Medal come her way, why, no doubt, she loves to have it, and is as proud as can be to wear it. In this connection, in an appreciative article in the *Daily Telegraph*, it is stated:—

"The Royal Red Cross has never yet been conferred posthumously, but there is good reason

to think that the King may make the first exception in favour of the two noble women who laid down their lives on the Salonika front. These heroines were Miss M. Marshall and Miss M. S. Dewar. The first-named was in the operating theatre of the hospital, which was not very far from Monastir, when enemy aeroplanes came over, and, utterly regardless of the Red Cross prominently displayed, began to drop bombs upon it. Miss Marshall was killed outright, and the danger was so great for half-an-hour that the medical officers urged the nurses to take cover. With splendid recklessness of themselves, they refused to leave the bedsides of their patients, and Miss Dewar was struck and mortally wounded as she was bending

over a man, suffering acute pain, in order to move his pillow to afford him some slight relief. Happily, he suffered no further injury, but the brave nurse herself was picked up and placed on a bed for the short space that elapsed before she succumbed to the terrible hurt she had sustained.

"In the last gentle ministrations to her, Miss Annie Colhoun assisted, though she had herself also been seriously wounded by a fragment of the bomb. In spite of the shock which she had experienced, she refused to leave her post, and Sister Garratt also continued to attend to her

patients while the deadly bombs were falling thick and fast, and claiming a toll of the stricken men. All these ladies belonged to Queen Alexandra's Reserve."

We regret that the writer of this article on "The Splendid Service," omitted all reference to the "Serf Clause" in the new Agreement, which Sisters and Nurses on the "Reserve" have to sign before being eligible for the rise of £20 salary they so well deserve. The London Press is very timorous in advocating just reforms for our



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