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## EDITORIAL.

### EARTH, SKY AND SEAS.

Once again the Christmas season finds the sword unsheathed, and this Empire and her Allies battling for the cause of freedom and honour.

The Christmas greetings of the Nursing Profession go forth through this JOURNAL first of all to the men of our Navy, Army and Air Service who, on the seas, on the earth, and in the sky are resolutely, heroically, splendidly and uncomplainingly supporting the long drawn-out issue under conditions of almost incredible hardship.

In the mud of Flanders, on the Italian mountains, in Salonika, in Mesopotamia, in the fighting zone in East Africa, men who are bone of our bone, and flesh of our flesh are daily risking their gallant lives, and in many cases laying them down, to protect the land that gave them birth, and the women and children who are dear to them, from the frightfulness of the Hun.

Mere lads some of them, with bright prospects before them, when this devastating war broke out, and they offered everything they possessed a sacrifice on the altar of patriotism and duty.

Again, a harder part, if possible, is that of the silent Navy, the ships of which, officered and manned by those who maintain its glorious traditions, patrol the seas to guard these islands from assault, and to keep open the great water ways of traffic. Night and day on the alert, with nerves taut, and courage invincible, never knowing when an enemy torpedo may send them to the bottom, they keep watch and ward.

How superbly too the Air Service—the newest fighting arm—is playing its gallant part, with all the verve and enthusiasm of

youth; and with the courage of good sportsmen its members climb thousands of feet into the air—when the atmosphere on earth makes us shiver by our warm fireside—to keep watch so that we may sleep securely, or, if need be, to give battle to the enemy up away in the ether.

Nor must we forget the Tanks, and their brave occupants, whose motto is evidently “deeds not words,” and who have recently covered themselves with glory, by obliterating the “invincible” line of a braggart foe.

To all these our heartfelt gratitude and good wishes go out at this season.

The Editor of this JOURNAL also sends heartiest greetings to the members of the Navy and Military Nursing Services wherever they may be stationed, who are caring for our sick and wounded, and to the members of those Services from Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa who have braved the perils of the High Seas to come to the help of the Empire in her hour of need.

And to our American Colleagues to whom we are bound by so many ties of sympathy, comradeship, and affection, this JOURNAL carries heartiest greetings for a happy Christmas spent far from friends and home.

To every nurse, wherever she may be working, who is faithfully and loyally striving to maintain the high ideals set by many great and noble women, alive and dead, who have striven for the uplifting of our profession, and for a high standard for its ministry of service, whether in the maintenance of public health, or in the care of those whose health is impaired, by wounds or sickness, we wish all the joy that this Christmas season, spent in the service of others, may bring, even though the war cloud still envelops us.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)