

The Prime Minister made public recognition of their value when, on October 29th, in the House of Commons, he moved a resolution expressing the thanks of the nation, through its representative body, to the Navy, the British Armies in the Field, and also to "the women in the medical and other services auxiliary thereto, for their unfailing courage and endurance in defending the right amidst sufferings and hardships unparalleled in the history of war, and for their loyal readiness to continue the work to which they have set their hands until the liberty of the world is secure."

#### OUR ALLIES.

The services of British nurses have been freely given, as far as possible, to the sick and wounded of our Allies as well as to our own. They have shared the dangers of the Italian and Russian retreats, and, in the latter connection, the nurses of the Scottish Women's Hospitals units have to mourn the loss of their intrepid chief, Dr. Elsie Inglis, a few hours after bringing the unit safely home. On the Belgian border they have been under shell fire from the enemy, and at Salonika several Sisters have been wounded or killed. In May last British nurses had the pleasure of welcoming a number of Units sent by the American Red Cross—all Registered Nurses—on their way to the front to British Hospitals, where some have since received their baptism of fire.

#### THE FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

The value of the work done by the members of the French Flag Nursing Corps has been officially recognized by the Comité de Londres, Croix Rouge Française, which now generously finances the Corps, as a gift to France.

No more striking testimony could have been paid to the good work done by the Sisters.

Other evidence of the value of their work is to be found in the award of the Croix de Guerre to two of their number, besides other decorations to various members of the Corps.

#### THE SUPPLY OF NURSES COMMITTEE.

The Report of the Committee appointed by the War Office in 1916 "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 increasing the supply," was issued in May last.

It will be remembered that when first appointed there was not a trained nurse upon this Committee (of which Mr. W. C. Bridgeman was Chairman). The outcry, however, was such that it was reconstituted, but, unfortu-

nately, the new members were, for the most part, connected with the Government Departments concerned, and it was not to be expected that they should make radical recommendations, as, for instance, the deletion of the "Serf Clause" from the Nurses' Contract, or the elimination of the untrained Commandant—a greater deterrent than any other factor to nurses contemplating war nursing outside the Regular Services, and, moreover, a source of danger to the sick.

#### THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

The activities of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland have been in abeyance owing to the fact that all international amenities are at a standstill during the war. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has been unanimously re-elected President for a further term of office.

#### THE MATRONS' COUNCIL.

The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland has to record the appointment of a new Hon. Treasurer, owing to the resignation of Mrs. Walter Spencer after eight years of most valuable service in this capacity. As an Hon. Member Mrs. Spencer still retains a warm interest in the Council for which she has done so much. It has been fortunate in securing as her successor Miss S. A. Villiers, one of its early and much-valued members.

#### THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

The Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, having severed negotiations with the College of Nursing, Ltd., on questions of principle, and revised its own Bill (as reported in our review last December), is prepared to take steps to represent these points effectively whenever the Government permits, or undertakes, the introduction into the House of Commons of a Nurses' Registration Bill.

#### STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

We have quite recently devoted a considerable amount of space to an account of the application of the Royal British Nurses' Association to His Majesty's Privy Council for a Supplemental Charter providing for the amalgamation of the College of Nursing, with the Association, under the title of the Royal British College of Nursing, and that the joint body should have the monopoly of keeping the Official Register of Trained Nurses, for which statutory powers were sought. We have also detailed reasons which actuated the Society

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