

We are glad that this honour, which is only awarded to those who were on active service during the first three months of the war, should have been gained by the above-mentioned nurses.

We referred some time ago to the fact that Miss McCarthy, Matron-in-Chief in France had circularised V.A.D.s under her supervision to inquire how many had any intention of taking up nursing as a profession and would be willing to go into civil hospitals to train. Out of 2,000, only 140 troubled to reply.

Those of us who advocate the highest standards of nursing education and efficiency have no fear of competition from V.A.D.s who intend to train as *professional* nurses after the war, but of the self-satisfied young women who mean to exploit nursing as a profession without efficient training. So many V.A.D.s have been permitted to assume the title of Sister, and accept responsibility in V.A.D. and auxiliary military hospitals, for which they are not qualified, that it will be these free lances who, without let or hindrance, will victimise the public unless the law steps in and protects it, and that is just what their influential friends in high places will fight against when a Registration Bill is before Parliament.

In the "General Letter of the Central Joint V.A.D. Committee," published in the *Red Cross*, it is stated that—

1. Cooks, ward-maids, ward orderlies, assistant cooks, housemaids, scullery maids, typists are all urgently needed.

2. All General Service members who go on foreign service will, in the future, wear khaki shoulder straps on their outdoor uniform and brown overalls over their indoor uniform.

V.A.D. members are forbidden to leave their county for work elsewhere without written permission by their Commandant and County Director, and on no account may they take their County Brassard out of the County to which it belongs. The Committee has had a complaint from the military authorities that a V.A.D. member was using a very old County Brassard to obtain travelling facilities in France. Paragraph 5 of the Letter runs as follows:—

5. *Aliens*.—The War Office require to be supplied with the Christian names of the father and mother and the maiden name of the mother, in the case of *alien* applicants for Auxiliary War Work. We hope only aliens of Allied Nationalities are permitted to do Auxiliary War Work. Neutrals should be carefully excluded. We think there has been far too much laxity in the past in this connection.

A nurse recently reported to us that she was in attendance in a *British* family of Jewish enemy antecedents, and here the sympathies were entirely Pro-German. One daughter, married to a German doctor on active service in Germany,

was working as a V.A.D. in one of our military hospitals. Apparently letters passed between the husband and wife. This, presumably, is not the type of alien to which Viscount Chilston, Chief County Director, refers in his General Letter.

The French Government has acknowledged the services rendered to French soldiers by the nursing party which left St. Andrew's Hospital at the beginning of the war to take up a most dangerous post at the French-Belgian Frontier. Nurse Kearney (St. Andrew's Hospital) and Nurse Cullen (Miss Fullerton's Nursing Home) have received the Silver Medal of the "Reconnaissance Francaise" in recognition of their devoted services to wounded soldiers at Hastieres in 1914, when frightful excesses were committed by the Germans. This decoration was recently created by the French Government, and has as yet been seldom given to British Nurses.

Miss Winstanley, who, for the past two years has officiated as Matron of the Scottish Women's Hospital at two different centres in France, has been presented by the French Government with the Medaille de Epidemics for services rendered. Miss Winstanley has just been appointed Matron of the Orthopædic Annexe, Dundee.

FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

Sisters who have not yet been acquainted with the fact, will learn with much gratification that, as officers of the French Army, they are entitled to a first-class return ticket from Boulogne to their destination in the British Isles. We hope to learn that the same generous arrangement will be granted them from Havre. As each Sister is granted three weeks' holiday every six months, free travelling will be an immense boon.

Miss E. J. Haswell has been awarded the Star of Mons for her services in Belgium (August to October, 1914) as a member of the International Nursing Corps. Miss Haswell brought a large party of seventy nurses safely back to England *via* Denmark and Norway, and immediately left for France as a member of the F.F.N.C.

We offer very warm congratulations. This much-coveted "Star" is now much more valued than the R.R.C.

CARE OF THE WOUNDED.

The members of the Auxiliary Committee of the Y.M.C.A. appeal on behalf of their Base Camps in France for games of every description, boxing gloves, gramophones, records, &c. They have also received requests for razors of every description.

Gifts in money and kind should be addressed to Princess Helena Victoria, Y.M.C.A., 74, South Audley Street, W. 1. Envelopes should be marked "Base Camps Fund," and enquires made of the hon. secretary at the same address.

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