

NURSING AND THE WAR.

Some new regulations are now enforced by the Anglo-French Hospitals Committee which has the power to permit or prevent English nurses working in France. All nurses trained and untrained have to have the Anglo-French certificate, and may only travel to the place indicated on the certificate. But even this precaution has not proved sufficient to control British women in France. Unfortunately "Nursing in France" has been not only a fashionable craze with Society people, but encouragement has been given to lay societies and others sending out nurses to engage those with "broken certificates"—in other words, women who have failed to finish their training for some reason or another, and who are therefore more or less failures professionally. Shoals of V.A.D.s have also been sent across the Channel.

One of the new regulations provides that all sorts and conditions of nurses are prohibited from changing service and locality. They must remain on the staffs of the Society which has guaranteed their suitability and are not at liberty to discharge themselves in France and take work elsewhere according to their own sweet will. This system of soon tiring of one place and moving to another has been difficult to control, as there are numerous hospitals in France run by amateurs who engage nurses without any reference whatever from the hospital or society to which they are attached, so that "undesirables" have in the past found no difficulty in moving from one hospital to another. The new regulation provides that this may not be done, and that nurses who resign, or are requested to return home, are to come back to England before being re-engaged. Moreover those who ignore this rule may be deported by the D.P.M. (Deputy Provost Marshal).

"There is a popular opinion," says the *Aberdeen Daily Journal*, "that after the war a large

proportion of the nursing V.A.D.s intend to enter the hospitals for regular training. This opinion is not confirmed by the experience of Miss McCarthy, R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief in France. Desirous of finding out the attitude of these women with regard to the future, she obtained permission from the authorities to send out a circular 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. The result, Miss McCarthy allows, was disappointing. Out of 2,000 who are working under her at present, only 140 troubled to reply at all, the proportion who were anxious so to train not being stated. Evidently there is at present no keen desire on the part of the V.A.D.s to qualify themselves as

professional nurses when their war services are no longer required. The majority, it is likely, after the war will retire to the comparatively leisured life from which they emerged at their country's call."

We feel sure young and enthusiastic women will never again "retire to the comparatively leisured life from which they emerged at their country's call." Few will submit to the discipline of a three years' training and all the arduous work out of the lime-light which it entails—but "retire" they will not. Marriage, let us hope, may be the sphere of the young and healthy—"their country's call" will be for a goodly supply of vigorous children, and nothing can be more patri-

otic than to bear, nourish and train them up in the way they should go. We would award Medals for Motherhood—with a bar for every vigorous Bambino born.

THE MILITARY MEDAL.

Miss Ethel Isabella Devenish-Meares, Sister, Q.A.I.M.N.S., who, we recently reported, has been awarded the Military Medal for her conspicuous services, appears on this page. By the courtesy of the Editor of the *Queen* we are able to publish this very attractive portrait.



MISS ETHEL ISABELLA DEVENISH MEARES,
Sister, Q.A.I.M.N.S.,

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