

# THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED  
**THE NURSING RECORD**  
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

No. 1,566.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1918.

Vol. LX.

## EDITORIAL.

### WHOLE TIME SERVICE.

"He who sincerely serves his country leaves the fragrance of a good name to a hundred ages; he who does not, leaves a name that stinks for tens of thousands of years."—*An Emperor of China.*

Never was there a time in the history of the Empire when the work of its women was so vital to the State. Never was there a time when it was so incumbent on each one to ask herself what she can do to serve the great cause of liberty.

On the Western Front in France the armies of the Allies are locked in the death grapple with the most inhuman foe the world has ever known, the result of which will determine its freedom or slavery for generations to come. A foe whose intense and bitter hatred is concentrated especially upon this country, and which is using every means which can be devised for the furtherance of scientific murder, so that the direct communication between the British Army and its gallant French Allies may be cut off.

In the fighting lines the issues involved are well understood, and one of the greatest of our war correspondents writes:—"All our armies have lived with intense understanding of the greatness of these days, of the meaning to the destiny of the world, and every private soldier or transport driver or linesman or labourer has been exalted by an emotion stronger than the effects of drugs. They do not say much these men of ours, but there is a queer light in their eyes, shining out of faces greyed by sleeplessness or streaked with blood . . . the spirit of these armies on the move seems almost visible, and as though all emotions in these men's hearts were vibrant about one." Again:—

"Fierce exaltation at the destruction of the enemy, grim pride in repulsing his bloodiest attacks, resolution to pay back,

and take back, have changed the gentlest fellow into a man who handles his rifle or machine gun with a secret promise to himself, ready to stop with his body another German advance. Passion has taken possession of our men because they know that if the enemy broke through all they have fought for would be jeopardised and this four years of war would have been in vain for us."

Such is the spirit of the armies in the field. It is the high privilege of women to realise the greatness of these days, and to devote all their energies to releasing men for active service. Many thousands have nobly responded to the call of duty, and the unrecognized heroism of women and their capacity for usefulness to the State, has been one of the revelations of the war.

But there are still many women who have not realised their national duty, whose time is mainly devoted to dress, fal-lals, enjoyment, and nonsense, who trifle with "war work" and whose time is for the most part spent in self-pleasing. We do not envy the women young, and able bodied, who can stand by while British men and their Allies are straining every nerve in the Titanic struggle. The time has come for every woman of military age, and physically fit, whatever her station in life, to enter the ranks of full time workers, and, had a woman been at the head of National Service, there is little doubt there would have been conscription of unmarried women between 18 and 50 years of age long ago.

Women are urgently needed at the present moment to work on the land in place of the 30,000 men who had been promised to the Board of Agriculture by the military authorities, but who cannot now be spared, and in branches so varied as to utilise talents of all kinds there is still the demand for the services of women. Doctors, trained

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