

## NURSING AS A FIELD OF NATIONAL SERVICE.

### THE UNITED STATES STUDENT NURSE RESERVE.

The pamphlet by Miss Isabel M. Stewart, R.N., M.A., Assistant Professor in the Department of Nursing and Health at Teachers' College, Columbia University, U.S.A., on the above subject, is a personal message from the Committee on Nursing, General Medical Board, Council of National Defence, Washington, D.C., addressed to all young women of America who are well educated, physically capable, and otherwise able to put their full time and energy into some definite form of national service.

The pamphlet is in support of the Government call for 25,000 young women between the ages of 19 and 35 to join the United States Student Nurse Reserve, and hold themselves in readiness to train for service as nurses, and has been forwarded to us by the courtesy of Dr. Franklin Martin, member of the Advisory Commission of the Medical Section of the Council of National Defence.

In a recruiting leaflet, which is a reprint of matter included in Miss Stewart's pamphlet, it is pointed out that the war is creating an unprecedented demand for trained nurses. Only those who have taken the full training course are eligible for service with the American Forces overseas. Their places must be filled by student nurses enrolled for the full training course. Every young woman who enrolls in the United States Student Nurse Reserve is releasing a nurse for service at the front, and swelling the home army which must be relied on to act as the second line of hospital defence. Upon the health of the American people will depend the spirit of their fighting forces.

The need of the 1,579 nurses' training schools in the United States is as great and imperative as that of the Army School of Nursing. Those who enrol for these schools will be assigned as vacancies occur.

The enrolment card will indicate two classes of registrants—Preferred and Deferred. The Preferred class will be those ready to accept assignment to whatever hospital the Government directs them, although they may state what training school they prefer to be sent to. The Deferred class is composed of those who limit their pledge of service, *i.e.*, who will not engage to go except to certain hospitals. This class is intended largely for those who, for

family reasons, cannot accept training at a distance from their homes. Those who register in the Deferred class will be assigned only after the Preferred class is exhausted.

The Government relies on the patriotism of those who enrol to fill out Preferred cards if they possibly can, thus volunteering to go where they are most needed.

Nobody will be assigned to any schools whose conditions of training are not approved by the State Board of Nurse Examiners.

After stating the terms of training, what the training course prepares for, and the earning capacity of the student after graduation, as well as referring to the honourable nature of the nursing profession, the recruiting leaflet concludes:—

"Enrol at the nearest recruiting station established by the Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defence."

The Committee on Nursing, whose message is voiced by Miss Stewart, assume at the outset that the person to whom it is addressed is not simply a dabbler, or a sentimental dreamer, but a serious, practical, patriotic girl or woman, sincerely anxious to throw her energies and her abilities into some form of work that is really going to count. Her brothers and friends have been called into the Army and Navy, and are now getting ready for a long period of hard and dangerous service for their country. That the girl is just as ready as they are to give up her own personal pleasures and pursuits and accept any of the sacrifices that may be called for, but that she does not want to squander her energy and waste her time in futile and unproductive forms of effort. That she wants to know how she can get into a *real* job.

Miss Stewart then proceeds to show what a nurse can do for her country, the need of recruits for the nursing army, the importance of thorough training, how the student recruit helps her country, what the training of the nurse offers, and the opportunities for service after graduation. She closes with the information already referred to in connection with the recruiting leaflet.

There is an Appendix of Information for College Graduates Desiring to enter Schools of Nursing. A special three months' nursing-preparatory course is offered this year to graduates of recognized colleges at Vassar College, University of Cincinnati, and elsewhere, the object of which is to provide an intensive preliminary training in subjects which are usually taken up in the early part of the hospital training course.

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