

for her lost mail boat. Everyone feels very down about it. A large number of those saved have since died either from wounds or exposure. Whole families have gone. It has clouded all the good news from the front; it is so near home."

Where do the Huns secrete their petrol so that Irish waters become a death trap? That is what the Government should know and apparently does not. Also why did not the Board of Trade comply with the application of the City of Dublin Steam Packet Company for adequate escort for cross-Channel boats? One of the directors informs the *Times*: "For a long time past we have been made aware that the Huns have determined to get the *Leinster*. This information was conveyed to the authorities. All that has happened is the carrying out of the threat to murder 500 persons." This is a very serious charge which the President of the Board of Trade or the Admiralty have been called upon to explain.

PATRIOTIC NURSES TO SUPPORT MR. W. M. HUGHES.

Smouldering indignation on the question of the continued freedom of influential aliens of enemy blood, has culminated in the demand for further publicity, and upon the re-assembling of Parliament a great National Meeting will be held in the Royal Albert Hall on Tuesday, November 5th, at 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Dacre Fox will preside, and the principal speaker will be the Right Hon. W. M. Hughes, Prime Minister of Australia, whose courage in publicly denouncing the bribery and corruption by the Hun stands out as one of the most potent factors in the policy of victory.

The various Committees appointed to deal with the internment of enemy aliens have not so far announced that any wealthy German or Austrian of any social influence has been interned. Why not? A dozen "tinkers, tailors, and candlestick makers" count less in the espionage danger to the Empire than one wealthy German financier or burrowing journalist. These are the persons whose "hidden hand" scatters largesse in cash and kind, and who still retain positions of influence "on every front."

Many patriotic nurses will wish to support Australia's great Prime Minister in his public protest against this shameful evil, and will no doubt attend the Albert Hall meeting on November 5th. All information can be obtained from Mrs. Dacre Fox, 3, Eastwood House, Emperor's Gate, London, S.W.

OUR DAY.

Our Day falls on October 24th, when throughout the country the Red Cross makes appeal for support. The king has sent £10,000 to the Joint War Committee, and the Lord Mayor of London is appealing for a million from the City. The activities of the Red Cross now cost £100,000 a week, and its needs grow and grow.

AN URGENTLY NEEDED REFORM.

JUNIOR SISTER, NOT STAFF-NURSE.

After the comparative failure of the Army Nursing System in the South African War, the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland presented to the Secretary of State for War in April, 1901, "Suggestions as to the formation of an Army Nursing Department at the War Office."

This comprehensive Report was published in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING of April 27th, 1901, and dealt with Nursing Progress, Nursing Organization, Need of a Nursing Department, Standard of Training, Head Sister (Matron), Nursing Sisters, Senior Sisters, Junior Sisters, Night Superintendents, Increase of Salary, Orderlies, and an Army Nursing Service Reserve.

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service was almost entirely organized upon these Suggestions.

After recommending the establishment of a Nursing Department in affiliation with the Medical Department at the War Office, superintended by a fully trained and experienced Administrative Nursing Officer and a Head Sister (Matron) in each Military Hospital, under the heading of "Nursing Sisters" the following suggestions were advanced:—

NURSING SISTERS.

The Matrons' Council would suggest that there should be two grades of Nursing Sisters, senior and junior.

SENIOR SISTERS.

The Senior Sisters should be in charge of wards, preferably containing not more than fifty beds. They should be responsible to the medical officers for carrying out all directions for the treatment of the sick and should be responsible to the Head Sister for the care of the ward linen and for the good order and cleanliness of their wards. They should personally superintend the service of food and should have authority to ensure the strict carrying out of medical directions with regard to dieting. They should also be responsible for the systematic clinical instruction of the Orderlies in practical nursing.

JUNIOR SISTERS.

The Junior Sisters should, when the Ward Sister is on duty, work under her direction. They should always be on duty in her absence from the ward. They should also be available for night duty and as special nurses on day or night duty.

The Senior Sister should report on their work to the Head Sister, and reports upon their efficiency and suitability should be forwarded by the Head Sister to the Nursing Department of the War Office. Their appointment as Senior Sisters, as

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)