

NURSING AND THE WAR.

On Saturday in last week the Royal Red Cross awarded to Miss L. V. Haughton, late Matron of Guy's Hospital, was presented to her by Dame Ethel Becher, G.B.E., with the King's approval, in the little Surrey village where she is slowly recovering from her very serious illness. His Majesty also, through Dame Becher, expressed great regret that Miss Haughton was unable to attend a public Investiture owing to her continued ill-health. Everyone will unite in congratulating Miss Haughton on this distinction, and will wish that before long she may be restored to health and be able to fulfil her wish of paying a visit to her many friends in Ireland, as she is still interested in their nursing activities.

Miss L. Jolley, R.R.C., until recently Matron of the Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool, and who has done good service in France in Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., since the beginning of the war, has been appointed Matron-in-Chief of the Air Service. Miss Jolley is highly qualified, and her colleagues will wish her well in this new and interesting post.

Sister N. M'Kenzie was recommended for the R.R.C. by General Allenby. She has been a member of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service (Reserve) since October 1914. Sister M'Kenzie has been on service since August, 1915, and was mentioned in General Murray's dispatches in June last. We are indebted to the courtesy of the Editor of *The Scots Pictorial*, Glasgow, for permission to reproduce Sister M'Kenzie's portrait and for the loan of the block. We have many Scottish readers at home and abroad who are interested in the recognition of the fine national work of their compatriots.



SISTER N. M'KENZIE, R.R.C., Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.

ASPECTS OF THE V.A.D. QUESTION.

We have come into intimate touch with several tragedies of late—affecting young inexperienced V.A.D.'s—which lead us to think that their free and easy and uncontrolled work—in charge as

they often are of men of all types—should be more carefully supervised.

At Marylebone Police Court recently Peggy Robertson, aged twenty-one, was charged with permitting a maisonette at Connaught Street, Hyde Park, to be used for improper purposes.

The prisoner, in evidence, said that the officers who had called at the maisonette were friends whose acquaintance she had made during the two years she was acting as a V.A.D. nurse in Egypt and elsewhere.

This young girl was fined £20, with the alternative of six weeks' imprisonment; and she was ordered to pay five guineas costs.

We have always condemned the practice of the authorities sending young untrained girls to work in military hospitals abroad. We hope that both the War Office and the Joint War Committee will make it impossible for girls of twenty-one and under to be subjected to the temptations to which Peggy Robertson evidently succumbed.

In the *Times* recently Dr. Wigram extolled the value of short-time service in hospital work, and said 200 members of the Marylebone V.A.D. were able to run a hospital for soldiers with only one trained nurse in charge! We wonder when this unfortunate professional was supposed to be off duty, if she ever went to bed, and who "ran" the hospital in her absence. Let us hope there were no "cot" cases admitted.

Anyway medical practitioners do a vast amount of harm in depreciating the value of skilled nursing where our sick and wounded men are concerned. We could wish that Dr. Wigram was on duty night and day in charge of 200 unskilled women nursing in and out of a hospital—perhaps he might then appreciate the worry and disorganisation of such a system.

A DAY OF PRAYER.

The King desires that August 4, the fourth anniversary of the war, shall be observed with special solemnity as a national day of prayer.

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