

NURSING AND THE WAR.

The Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital have decided, with many other general hospitals, to admit for training a limited number of nursing members of voluntary aid detachments and special military probationers who have satisfactorily completed not less than two consecutive years' work in a military or an auxiliary hospital. The hospital certificate of training will be granted after the passing of the final examination on the completion of three years' training, the fourth year of the usual course being excused. Regular probationers are now received at St. Bartholomew's Hospital at the age of 21.

AN INJUSTICE TO REGULAR PROBATIONERS.

As the fourth year's work exacted by the training schools is one of service and not of training, this is a fair arrangement; but where regular probationers will suffer is that those who train in hope of making military nursing their career, will, in the future, be excluded from the Imperial Nursing Service, as the new Instruction 678, recently adopted by the Army Council, promoted by the British Red Cross Society and the Nursing Board, provides for priority of promotion to the Service for members of voluntary aid detachments and special military probationers, who are to be admitted to our large training schools on the privileged three years' term. This is specially unjust to those regular probationers who have entered for four years' training and service this year.

But throughout this war, members of the Nursing Profession have, by the unfortunate influence of the Matron-in-Chief of the Joint War Committee, been treated with a lack of recognition, to which it is surprising that they should have submitted.

Instruction 678 is the latest evidence of the danger of the control of our professional standards by lay persons of social influence, the leisured wealthy, and their subservient officials.

What next? First the "serf clause"; now the most honourable service under the State closed to open competition. As we trained nurses are compelled to pay the taxes to support the War Office, we must place our opinion on record concerning this class job.

The Ulster Nurses' Unit, since their hospital at Lyons was closed, have been working with an American ambulance on the Western front, but they are anxious not to lose their identity, and an appeal for funds is being made. This Unit has had a strenuous time. They were close to the battle for an important point, and their hospital drew the usual attention from the Germans. Finally, they got orders to evacuate in the night, packed all, and arrived safely at the next point, where they are now in charge, after almost

miraculous escapes. Every window broken and roofs moved by injuries to the walls, yet the only building completely destroyed was their goods store and the only lives lost by bombardment were seven horses close outside the nurses' quarters. The Germans fired on them, while removing the stretcher cases, and on the doctors, and again on the orderlies finally clearing off. Ulster nurses who would like to join the unit should apply to the Matron, Samaritan Hospital, Belfast. They must speak French fluently, and not object to hard work and some discomforts.

Miss Dora E. Thompson, Chief of the American Army Nurse Caravan Corps, whose hospitals are mounted on motor trucks and trailers, is organising staffs of fifty nurses for each unit, who will go up within five miles of the fighting lines when their caravans respond to emergency calls. Each unit is planned to be equivalent to an evacuation hospital, and the nurses are each given the field kit of an officer, prepared to camp where night finds them.

REAL GOOD WORK.

Sister Mary Walker, holder of the Serbian Croix de Charité, a former student of the Keighley Girls' Grammar School, gave an address at the Keighley Temperance Institute recently on the work of the Scottish Women's Hospital in Serbia and Corsica. Sir John Clough (chairman of the Governors) presided over a large audience, and Serbian national songs were sung by girls of the Grammar School. Sister Walker, who expressed her pleasure at being able to come back to Keighley again, outlined the work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals with the Belgian and French armies, and subsequently with the Serbians. After the retreat from Serbia she and another nurse attached themselves to the women's hospital which went out with the Salonika Expeditionary Force. White aprons and caps were synonymous with nursing in England, but not so in Serbia, where they had no water to wash in, snow up to the hips, and blocks of ice over the only well in the village. In the hospital itself they had no means of obtaining heat, and the hot-water bottles put in bed at 5 o'clock at night were frozen at 10. Around the compound wolves gathered at night.

Sister Walker spoke of the removal of the hospital to Salonika, and subsequently to Corsica, where they had 10,000 refugees under their care. In Corsica 100 babies were born, and only three died. Here mothers were getting the ideas of Western and particularly British civilisation on the rearing of children, sanitation, and personal hygiene, so that when the Serbian nation was rebuilt its sanitary systems would be founded upon British and French examples. The Serbian people generally were greatly interested in Britain, and when they got back to their own land there would be an opening for British trade provided our manufacturers offered to Serbia the goods she wanted.

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