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## EDITORIAL.

### A CALL TO ARMS.

The great Procession of Homage of Women War Workers received by the King and Queen in the quadrangle of Buckingham Palace on Saturday last, when an address of congratulation upon their Silver Wedding was presented, was a magnificent success. Princess Mary was present in her uniform of Commandant-in-Chief of the V.A.D., and V.A.D. workers took precedence of all other branches of women's work, including the Trained Nurses of the Metropolitan Asylums Board led by Miss Ambler-Jones. The King's Reply to the Address, delivered in a resonant voice, was distinctly heard by some thousands of people present, and His Majesty spoke most sympathetically and appreciatively of the part played by women in the great war.

"The Queen and I," said the King, "are touched by the thought that the first expression of loyalty and devotion on the occasion of our silver wedding should come from this representative body of women who, by their services, have assisted the State in the full mobilization of its man power. In our visits to various centres we have had opportunities of seeing and appreciating the great part which the women of our land are taking in all branches of war service, and everywhere we have been filled with admiration at their achievements, an admiration which I believe to be shared by the whole nation.

"When the history of our country's share in the War is written no chapter will be more remarkable than that relating to the range and extent of women's participation. This service has been rendered only at the cost of much self-sacrifice and endurance."

Referring to nurses and V.A.D. workers His Majesty said, "They have often faced cheerfully and courageously great risks,

both at home and overseas, in carrying on their work, and the Women's Army has its own Roll of Honour of those who have lost their lives in the service of their country. Of all these we think to-day with reverent pride."

There should not be to-day an idle woman in the three kingdoms. All able-bodied women between the ages of eighteen and forty, not otherwise employed, should enrol themselves as full-time workers in one of the great organizations of those who are prepared to make every sacrifice in order to assist their country at this supreme crisis in its history.

### AN IMPORTANT DEPARTURE.

At the request of the Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association we shall henceforth publish fortnightly a Special Supplement, which will take the place of its official organ, the *Nurses' Journal*.

As one of the founders of the Association we are in full sympathy with the policy of the Hon. Officers for professional consolidation and for the protection of the interests of the thoroughly trained nurse, with which are interwoven those of the public.

Owing largely to the glorification of the semi-trained war worker by the Nurses' Department in the Red Cross Office, competition with the certificated nurse has already become a serious menace to our professional ideals.

By a new Army Order Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service will be reserved for V.A.D.s who conform to a term of general training, and private nurses must recognize the coming competition with semi-trained women of social influence which may deprive them of their livelihood after the war.

The nurses' organizations which are affiliated to the Royal British Nurses'

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)