

## NURSING AFTER THE WAR.

The forty-eight hours' notice at regular military hospitals to Reserve Nurses and Sisters is causing no end of indignation amongst these workers—and as the nurses are compelled to give a month's notice, if they have not signed on "for the duration," we doubt if the War Office has any legal right to summarily dismiss its Nursing officers. But—and here we cannot resist once more alluding to the "Serf Clause." That abominable regulation was made for persons who, for £20 increase of salary, were willing to sell their souls—for it amounts to that, when a human being signs a legal contract to renounce the right of appeal when accused of "misconduct," and to be summarily dismissed as guilty of any fault or crime without investigation. We fear many of the nurses now being summarily dispensed with, accepted the "serf" conditions, and we fear they will have to submit to them. But those Sisters and Nurses who retained their self-respect and refused to accept £20 for their independence have, we believe, a claim for a month's emoluments.

We have received the following communication from a Military Sister, which speaks for itself:—

NO RECOGNITION FOR SERVICE IN HOSPITAL SHIPS UNDER FIRE.

DEAR MADAM,

Can you very kindly help me with your valuable advice in the following matter:—

I applied for a 1914-1915 Star, in respect of war services in a hospital ship under fire at Gallipoli.

After three applications I got a reply to the effect that service in a hospital ship does not count as service in a theatre of war for the purposes of a decoration. (An exact copy of letter I enclose.)

Anything more unjust can scarcely be conceived. Many of us were health-wrecked (I am permanently disabled through trench nephritis), one sister on my ship was actually struck by a bullet.

I shall be so grateful for your advice.

This is the reply from the War Office —

MEMORANDUM.

With reference to your correspondence on the subject of the "1914-15 Star," I am directed to inform

you that service in a hospital ship does not count as service in a theatre of war for the purpose of the award of the decoration. It is regretted, therefore, that your claim cannot be entertained.

C. H. FRITH, Lt.-Col.,  
For Director of Personal Services.

If we did not know our War Office we should imagine such ungenerous treatment incomprehensible. We hope this matter will be taken up in the House of Commons, and that justice will be done to the brave nurses who faced death many times.

Miss Edith Johncock, who as matron of the British Hospital at Nazareth, Palestine, was made a prisoner by the Turks, on the entry of Turkey into the war, has been repatriated to her home at Dover.



AMERICAN SISTERS LEAVING FOR THE GENERAL'S CONCERT.

She states that the Turks behaved badly, and stole all the belongings of the nurses. She and the two other English nurses at the hospital were put in charge of 350 Syrian girls, who were brought to Nazareth to act as nurses to the Turks.

Thousands of wounded and sick Turkish soldiers were under treatment in Nazareth, the number being particularly heavy after the Gaza battles.

Miss Johncock complains that she and her comrades were kept very short of food, and were only allowed just over 11s. a month. They were charged £7 for a quarter of a bag of corn, but even at this price it was only available at times.

The French Generals treated British and American Sisters with great courtesy during the War. No wonder when we take a peep at them as seen on this page.

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