

We are awaiting official information on this question.

In our opinion, trained nurses under the authority of the French War Office, and partly maintained on the establishment of the Service de Santé, such as members of the French Flag Nursing Corps, are certainly eligible. These Sisters were an integral part of the French Army. The term of service which qualifies for the medal has not yet been notified, but those who have served twelve months as required by the French War Office, and upwards, are certain of the recognition.

British Sisters sent out by other Committees should apply for information to such Committees.

WAR SERVICE MEDAL.

A war service medal has been given by St. John's Ambulance Association to its members for a specific number of duties at Hospital, on Ambulance and Air Raids. Red Cross orderlies would appreciate like recognition. We strongly advocate that nurses and others who remained on duty during air-raids, and showed the most admirable courage, should have some special recognition.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS SHOULD EMPLOY TRAINED NURSES.

The *Red Cross* reports in the September issue that "the number of V.A.D. Nursing Members posted to Naval, Military, and Ministry Pensions Hospitals, also Q.M.A.A.C. Sick Bays in France, and W.R.A.F. Sick Bays and Hospitals in England is 158." Seventy-one requisitions for the services of members were received during the month, and many of these vacancies were filled by the Matron-in-Chief Q.A.I.M.N.S. by those who have been demobilised from hospitals abroad. Sixteen members have been posted to hospitals under the Ministry of Pensions since July 25th. These members are appointed under the same conditions and at the same rate of pay as members serving in Military Hospitals, which means that these untrained nurses with a certain amount of official nursing experience, are being very well paid by the Government indeed.

Let us hope when the Government brings in and, let us hope, passes at an early date the Nurses' Registration Bill, all the Nursing Services controlled by the Government and paid by taxation, will be secured to either Registered Nurses or those training under contract to qualify for such. It is the irony of fate that thoroughly qualified nurses should be compelled to pay taxes, which many of them do, to remunerate the unskilled labour of amateurs employed in Governmental Nursing Departments. Perhaps the Ministers for Navy, Army, and Pensions will look into these matters, now that these services are supposed to be on a Peace footing. Trained Nurses have little to hope from Councils of their own sex, who have apparently no inclination to study nursing economics.

AN HISTORIC SOUVENIR.

His Majesty the King has presented Sister Evelyn Walton, R.R.C., with a brooch. She nursed him after his accident in France. This historic souvenir will be most deeply valued.

HELP FOR EX-SERVICE MEN.

From the Surplus Funds of the Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John, it has been decided to distribute £956,000 to hospitals and other institutions in England and Wales.

As the money was given for the benefit of wounded soldiers and sailors during the war, the grants will be limited to those institutions which treat ex-Service men, so that no hospitals solely for women and children benefit.

The grants fall into four groups:—

Hospitals which treat ex-Service men only.

Civil hospitals whose patients include ex-Service men.

Institutions, including farm colonies, for the treatment of tuberculosis, which give priority to ex-Service men.

County district nursing associations.

Grants to the second and third groups are for definite schemes for building, extensions, and improvements.

A block grant of £125,000 to the London hospitals will, it is hoped, be administered by the King Edward's Hospital Fund Committee.

Various County Nursing Associations are allotted £59,500, so let us hope a far greater percentage of Queen's Nurses will be employed and better salaries paid. Institutions for the treatment of tuberculosis are granted £200,000, and this should be of very direct personal benefit to the many soldiers who have contracted the disease on active service.

One of the conditions of a grant is that the County Voluntary Aid Organisation is to be adequately represented, if it so wishes, on the board of management of each institution to which a grant is made.

LECTURES ON INFANT CARE.

The National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality and for the Welfare of Infancy, has organised two courses of Elementary Lectures on Infant Care: (1) especially intended for Crèche Nurses or Probationers, which will be held at the Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, commencing September 25th; and (2) a course for Teachers, Infant Welfare Workers, Mothers, &c., at 1, Wimpole Street, W., to commence on Monday, September 29th. Full information can be obtained, also the syllabus and fees, from Miss Halford, Secretary, National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality, 4, Tavistock Square, London, W.C. 1.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)