

necessities of "Nurse Juliet," and of the "many thousands of cases" of which she is said to be typical.

It hopes that the Nursing Board of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service will draw the attention of the Secretary of State for War to the "very large numbers of women who unhesitatingly gave their all when war broke out, and are now," according to the *Daily Telegraph*, "in actual want and in real distress of mind."

(Signed) MARGARET BREAY.
Hon. Secretary.

REPLY.

War Office, S.E.1.
March 25th, 1920.

A.M.D. 4.

MADAM,—I am directed to acknowledge your letter of the 18th instant, and to inform you that the Nursing Board of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service have no knowledge of the lady referred to in the above quoted letter.

(Signed) A. B. SMITH,
Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.I.M.N.S.,
for Director-General Army Medical Service.

431, Oxford Street, W.
March 26th, 1920.

To DAME S. A. SWIFT, R.R.C.,
Matron-in-Chief Joint War Committee.

DEAR MADAM,—I am directed by the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses to ask you to furnish the Committee with the surname of "Nurse Juliet" whose destitute condition was detailed in the *Daily Telegraph* of February 6th, and the date when she was sent to France. Before being permitted to proceed there she must have obtained the Anglo-French certificate issued under the authority of the Joint War Committee, and must therefore be known to its officials. As public money has been subscribed as a result of the statement regarding her destitution in the *Daily Telegraph*, my committee consider that they have a right to be informed of her name, and when she proceeded abroad.

(Signed) MARGARET BREAY.
Hon. Secretary.

REPLY.

Joint War Committee, British Red Cross Society, and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Trained Nurses' Department.

19, Berkeley Street,
London, S.W.1.

DEAR MADAM,—In answer to your letter of enquiry *re* Nurse Juliet, whose name you say was mentioned in the *Daily Telegraph*, I have no authority for giving you the information you desire.

(Signed) S. A. SWIFT.

This letter indicates that Dame Swift is in possession of the information asked for.

The honour and humanity of the Nursing Department of the War Office, or of the Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross and the Order of St. John, have been seriously impugned by the *Daily Telegraph*. One or the other did or did not send an untrained mannequin to the front to nurse our sick and wounded soldiers in the War, and then left her with broken health to starve.

The War Office and its Nursing Department repudiate any knowledge of "Nurse Juliet."

It remains therefore for Dame Swift, R.R.C., D.B.E.—the Matron-in-Chief of the Joint War Committee—who was responsible for the selection of V.A.D. nurses sent abroad, to exonerate the Joint War Committee or the *Daily Telegraph* from grave suspicion of deluding the public.

If the "Nurse Juliet" story is true, then the Joint War Committee and its officials are to blame. If the Nurse Juliet story is a fake, then the *Daily Telegraph* should be very severely dealt with by some responsible authority for taking money from the public by an untruthful appeal, and the Joint War Committee should be the first to urge this course.

We hope, therefore, for the protection of the public, Mr. Grundy will continue to press in Parliament for the truth concerning this matter.

Mixed up with the "Nurse Juliet" scandal is the very unsatisfactory manner in which that registered war charity, the Nation's Fund for Nurses is being handled. The continued denial to the Press and the public of any audited balance sheet and statement of accounts since its inception in 1917, is in our opinion a gross violation of the avowed intention of the War Charities Act. Why should persons in high places be permitted to flout the Law?

PHILANTHROPIC EMPLOYERS.

Miss Helen G. Klaassen writing recently to the *Daily News* says:—

"You quote the organising secretary of the College of Nursing as saying, 'The hospitals, as a whole, are willing to improve conditions and wages, but they are dependent on the support they receive from the public.'

"Not only hospitals, but other philanthropic bodies take the line that difficulty in raising money is a reason for sweating employees. They are helped in this by persons of private means, who accept salaries they could not live on. District Nursing Associations have still further wronged their employees by accepting very low payments from public authorities for the services of the visiting nurse.

"There must be a drastic reform if administrators wish to continue their work and not hand it over to the State and municipality. Some persons would feel more inclined to subscribe if good finance, good conditions of employment and sound facts about the matters they deal with were put before them."

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