

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES.

We learn through the daily press that the primary purpose of the Women's Voluntary Services is to assist and co-operate with local authorities in enrolling women for air raid precautions services and the extension of hospital services which would be necessary in case of emergency. It is not intended that the new organisation shall take over any of the existing statutory responsibilities placed on local authorities by the Air Raid Precautions Act and the subsequent regulations.

Reserve of Nurses for Hospitals.

The reporter of the *Evening Standard* tells us that plans for organising women to help in hospitals in the event of war have been drawn up, and preliminary work in connection with them has been entrusted by the Government to the Ministry of Health.

The Ministry have completed a nation-wide survey of hospital accommodation. Now that they know precisely how many casualties can be dealt with in each hospital, they are turning their attention to the question of extra personnel.

A special section for this purpose has been formed at the Ministry, and the newly launched Women's Voluntary Services, under the Dowager Lady Reading, are being made responsible for securing emergency staffs apart from trained nurses.

When the scheme is complete the W.V.S. will be able, through their district organisations, to supply helpers of all kinds to any hospital which requires them.

Apart from clerical workers, telephonists, cooks and domestic helpers, the following categories are among those required: pharmacists, opticians, optical assistants, dispensers, ambulance attendants, messengers, undertakers, dentists, X-ray mechanics, laboratory assistants and surgical dressing workers.

We ask is it possible for all these skilled workers, who have their livings to earn, to give full-time voluntary service? We doubt it.

A Week's Intensive Course.

Lady Reading recently opened an intensive course for the training of instructors at the Stoke Newington A.R.P. School. The course will be carried out under the auspices of the British Red Cross Society, and will continue for a week. On passing the examination at the end of the course candidates will be qualified to lecture as Grade 1-B.R.C.S. Instructors.

Magic!

WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On June 23rd, as reported in *The Times*:—

DR. EDITH SUMMERSKILL (Fulham, W., Lab.) asked the Home Secretary in the House of Commons what attributes he had looked for in selecting officers for the women's voluntary services, seeing that the officers he had selected for service appointments had no practical experience of the conditions of the people in the industrial and congested areas.

MR. G. LLOYD, Under-Secretary, Home Office (Ladywood, U.): "Apart from a very small secretarial staff of civil servants, the women working for women's voluntary services are voluntary workers whose appointment is a matter for those services. I understand, however, that the women's voluntary services are making it their aim to obtain the co-operation and help of women of all types of experience and knowledge."

DR. SUMMERSKILL: "Does the hon. gentleman know

that organised women and unorganised women in this country, who will be called on to form the rank and file of these services, are extremely dissatisfied with the arbitrary manner in which the Home Secretary has appointed the higher command?"

MR. LLOYD: "That does not agree with my information."

DR. SUMMERSKILL: "May I ask the hon. gentleman if he knows more about organised and unorganised women than I do?" (Laughter.)

"MR. LLOYD: "I have the advantage of the advice of a number of other women." (Ministerial cheers and laughter.)

DR. SUMMERSKILL: "Has the hon. gentleman had the advice of women who understand the conditions in the industrial and congested areas?"

MR. LLOYD: "Certainly."

MISS WILKINSON (Jarrow, Lab.): "Does the hon. gentleman really think that a matter of this importance to the women of this country should have been put in the hands of fashionable society women and young debutantes?"

Not only industrial women were dissatisfied, but professional workers also, when the names were divulged of those appointed by the Home Secretary to organise the movement for the national enrolment of women prepared to serve their country in event of war, and who were informed that "one of the main points is that each woman will be given the duty to which she is best fitted."

The sooner the Home Office realises that a very grave mistake has been made, and that we are not going to be deputed to duty by "a higher command" we do not consider *persona grata* in this connection, the better.

We have to thank Dr. Edith Summerskill for voicing in Parliament the opinion of thousands of British women, who disapprove of class domination which is realised to be entirely out of date where a national emergency service is concerned.

LEGACIES FOR NURSES.

Mr. Horace Hubert Scott, of Hartfield, Sussex, left £5,000 to Nurse M. Duckering.

Mr. George Norman Speak, of Greetland, near Halifax, left £200 to Nurse Evelyn Barker, of Leeds, "as a slight acknowledgment of all her kindness and attention to me during my recent illness." £200 to Nurse Barbara Jopling, of Leeds, if in his service for two months prior to his death.

Miss Amelia Maude Esther Southgate, of Wallington, left £100 to Nurse Lillith Southgate, of Mwami Mission, Nyasaland, for her mission.

ANNUITIES FOR NURSES.

Mr. Charles Plumtre Johnson, of Park Grange, Sevenoaks, left an estate of £340,219. After making splendid benefactions, he left the remaining half of the residue to the Hospital for Sick Children, Gt. Ormond Street, absolutely, but with a recommendation that a sum not exceeding £10,000 should be used for annuities for nurses.

TALE WITH A MORAL.

Two lady snails were crawling along the top of a wall. One turned round and saw a slug behind them, so she said to her companion: "Don't look behind, dear; there's a nudist following us."

A POSER.

There were two Bishops dining together. When they went up to bed one had pyjamas and the other a night-dress. Which of the Bishops had the night-dress?

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