

NURSING ECHOES.

WE MUST BE FREE OR DIE.

It is not to be thought of that the Flood
Of British freedom, which, to the open sea
Of the world's praise, from dark antiquity
Hath flowed, "with pomp of waters, unwithstood,"
Roused though it be full often to a mood
Which spurns the check of salutary bands,
That this most famous Stream in bogs and sands
Should perish; and to evil and to good
Be lost for ever. In our halls is hung
Armoury of the invincible knights of old:
We must be free or die, who speak the tongue
That Shakespeare spake; the faith and morals hold
Which Milton held.—In everything we are sprung
Of Earth's first blood, have titles manifold.

WORDSWORTH.

The Queen has organised a work party to make bandages and garments for the Central Hospital Supplies Service under the joint board of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John. The Queen, who will herself take an active part in the work, will be assisted by members of Their Majesties' domestic staff.

The Supplies Service was instituted by the joint board of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John.

Millions of books, magazines and illustrated journals will be required for the soldiers, both at home and abroad; and the Red Cross Hospital Library, which has its headquarters at Queen's Gardens, Lancaster Gate, are making active preparations to cope with the need for books and magazines. The library was founded in the early days of the last war, and it was supported by the public with boundless generosity, and during the whole period of the war supplies were maintained at a high level and continuously dispatched to the troops both at home and abroad, even to such distant fields as Egypt, Mesopotamia, Salonika, and Gallipoli.

It should be borne in mind that men of our citizen army are steady readers; but the taste of the soldier is for cheery books and fiction, magazines—and the more pictures, the better. The new illustrated weeklies are in great demand.

Send these papers without delay to the Red Cross

Hospital Library if you have no near and dear boy at the front or in training.

We are informed that voluntary librarians will be needed. The Guild of Hospital Librarians train young women for the work, and centres have been established both in London and the provinces where those with leisure can be instructed in the duties of librarianship.

We regret to see a very long list of cancelled fixtures of important national societies, as trade inevitably suffers; but presume people are too busy "winning the war" to spare time for meetings, discussions and social amenities. It certainly is the case with the nurses' organisations, and, as of late years, an appalling amount of time has been required to attend nurses' meetings and take part in sometimes unnecessary discussions, this may be a blessing in disguise. All members of the National Council of Nurses of Great

Britain are actively engaged, and few can spare time for organisation at the moment.

The General Nursing Council for England and Wales will not meet till further notice—and, praise be, we have not been further disturbed by the issue of the final Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Nursing Services. Let us hope it may be held over till its members have been somewhat chastened by tackling tyrannies abroad. We Registered Nurses need no further injustice on the home front.

Letters we have received from "somewhere in

France" are not for publication, but we gather our fine Army Sisters, all Registered Nurses, are on the spot ready for any contingency which may arise. We have every confidence, as our defence forces have, in the "pucca red cape."

We cull the following par from the *Daily Telegraph*. I have just visited a British field hospital "Somewhere in France." It is an historic chateau, a building almost on the scale of a palace.

The owner, a woman with a famous title, is still occupying her private rooms. Her husband has enlisted in the French Army as a private and she has lent her home to the British Army. The stately salons and



Photo.]

[Planet News, Ltd.]

THE KING AND QUEEN OBSERVE DAY OF NATIONAL PRAYER AT ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

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