

THE BRITISH RED CROSS AND ITS STAFF OF TRAINED NURSES.

We recently announced that it was the intention of the British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John to enrol a section of Trained Nurses and this good work is now being organised.

The Committee.

The Dowager Lady Ampthill is Chairman of the Committee, which includes Dame Joanna Cruickshank, S.R.N. (Matron-in-Chief of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John), Dame Ethel Becher, Dame Ann Beadsmore-Smith, S.R.N., Miss M. Hogg, S.R.N., Miss D. Martin, S.R.N., Miss Darbyshire, S.R.N., and Miss M. A. Willcox, S.R.N., all of whom have held the appointment as Matron of important hospitals, with Nurse Training Schools attached. Lord Clifden has lent the Committee 7, Belgrave Square, which is to be its headquarters, and it is to be hoped that its standard of qualification will be that of "Registered" Nurses whose professional status has been so studiously ignored by the Ministry of Health, and by Committees largely composed of the laity who are eagerly providing "Nurses" for our sick and wounded troops with apparently little knowledge of the standard of efficiency required and which is the right of those prepared to defend their country.

Enrolment at 7, Belgrave Square.

Enrolment of trained nurses has already begun at 7, Belgrave Square. Their work will be mostly in auxiliary hospitals, which supplement the military hospitals. The staff for the auxiliary hospitals will be selected by the Matron-in-Chief and be under the direct control of the Committee. A classified register is being formed, and nurses enrolled will be appointed according to their qualifications as matrons or nursing sisters. Trained nurses from the ages of 25 to 60 are eligible for these posts, and it is interesting to note that women from all walks in life who are trained nurses are offering their services. The register also includes masseuses and dispensers.

Examiners and Lecturers.

Nurses under 45 may enrol for transfer to the Army and Air Force Nursing Services, the pay and conditions corresponding to the branch of the Service to which they are appointed.

Besides these full-time services, trained nurses are needed as examiners and lecturers, and there is need for more volunteers for this work in all parts of the country.

The war uniform to be worn by trained nurses was recently on view at 7, Belgrave Square.

There was no regulation dress for nurses working under similar conditions in the last war. The dress shown was designed by the Matron-in-Chief, and is a pleasing garment with a one-piece dress in navy blue gingham. It is 60 in. round the hem and 12 in. off the ground. There is a detachable collar of white cambric and detachable cuffs of the same material. A shoulder cape of the blue gingham gives a smart appearance to the uniform.

The apron differs from the former pattern as it has no cross pieces at the back; instead, the top clips into slots in the front of the dress. This makes it easy to put on. It is long enough to reach the end of the dress hem and is wide enough to cover it all round. Light grey stockings will be worn with black laced shoes. A navy blue felt sailor hat with a ribbon band of red and black with a touch of white is worn out of doors, when a double-breasted overcoat in navy serge with an all-round belt will also be worn.

The cap for use in the wards is of organdie and is somewhat smaller than the previous cap, which is a great improvement. The orthodox Army cap, so widely adopted by nurses with no military status, has become grotesquely obstructive of recent years.

It would be well if every item of nurses' military uniform was strictly protected as is that of the fighting forces.



Photo :]

[The Times

TRAINED NURSES' NEW WAR UNIFORM.
RED CROSS AND ST. JOHN.

THE UNITED NURSING SERVICES CLUB, LTD.

The above club was founded by Dame Ethel Becher, G.B.E., R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief at the War Office during the last war, as a meeting place for all members of the Navy, Army and Air Force Nursing Services and their friends.

During the present emergency it has been decided to offer temporary honorary membership to all members of the above Services, and others engaged in National War Work.

Particulars of special terms can be had on application to the Secretary: Miss M. F. Steele, R.R.C., 34, Cavendish Square, W.1. Telephone, Mayfair 4001.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)