

THE GUILD OF NURSES.

We are requested by Miss N. Dunkley, S.R.N., Chairman of the Guild of Nurses, to publish two letters addressed by her to the Talks Director, B.B.C., and to Mrs. Tate, M.P., after listening to a talk in the series, "Calling all Women." We do comply with her request with pleasure, as we are entirely in sympathy with her protest.

The Talks Director, B.B.C.,
Broadcasting House,
London, W.1.

48, Whitby Road,
Harrow, Middx.
October 24th, 1940.

DEAR SIR,

At the end of the one o'clock news to-day a letter was read about the hospital services in London in which the nurses received the highest praise, only to be followed by a talk, one sentence of which did almost irreparable harm to the same profession.

In the "Calling all Women" series, the speaker to-day mentioned that the women of a certain village had themselves added to the equipment of a first aid post, fitting it and also using it as an out-patient department, then saying, "They are now as capable as any trained nurses to deal with casualties."

It seems that nurses who are always "obeying the country's call" are never to get their deserts. May I suggest that you approach the National Council of Nurses, 19, Queen's Gate, S.W.7, to which more than 50 associations of trained nurses are affiliated, asking them to provide a speaker and talk on "The Importance of the Trained Nurse to the Country."

Last week 122 hospitals were advertising for young women to commence training as nurses. After hearing the talk this afternoon girls will think it is no use training, and the sick of the country will eventually suffer.

Kindly forward the enclosed letter to the speaker, Mrs. Tate, M.P.

Yours faithfully,
NELLIE DUNKLEY, S.R.N., M.B.C.N., *Chairman.*

To Mrs. Tate, M.P.,
c/o Broadcasting House.

DEAR MADAM,

On behalf of trained nurses may I draw attention to one sentence in your talk in the "Calling all Women" series, which, whilst doing almost irreparable damage to the nursing profession, will also eventually be detrimental to the sick and wounded of this country.

The women you mention who made a first aid post into an out-patient department and worked in it are doing good work, but to say "They are now as capable as any trained nurse to deal with casualties" is a serious and misleading statement not in accordance with facts.

Last week 122 hospitals were advertising for women to commence training as nurses. Many who were considering such training will, no doubt, after hearing such a statement made by a woman who is a Member of Parliament, decide it is not worth while spending three to four years on training, so that one sentence will probably do more harm than the rest of your talk did good.

I feel sure you would not deliberately disparage our profession, and as a closer knowledge of our training would have enabled you to avoid such a catastrophe, shall have much pleasure in arranging a visit to one of our training schools if you will give me some alternative dates.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
NELLIE DUNKLEY, S.R.N., *Chairman.*

We must acknowledge with gratitude the support given by Mrs. Tate in the House of Commons when the question of Government recognition being given to a scheme for semi-trained, unexamined women being foisted upon the public as "Assistant Nurses" was under discussion. She ably opposed this dangerous recommendation, the only Member of Parliament with the sense to do so.

Standards of nursing in the present war, recognised by the Civil Nursing Reserve, are deplorably insufficient, and the members of the nursing profession as a whole, have failed to take an effective stand against the methods of the Ministry of Health which is responsible for such depreciation.

THE WAR.

"Happy are all free peoples, too strong to be dispossessed:
But blessed are those among nations, who dare to be
strong for the rest!"

E. B. BROWNING.

The people of the Dominions love and have confidence in our wonderful Air Force. One and all are emulating its example.

From Melbourne we learn that under the Empire Training Scheme 34,381 men have now been accepted by the Royal Australian Air Force. Of these 10,018 are destined for flying duties, of whom 2,736 are already in training. The rest will be ground personnel, and of them 19,891 are trained or in training.

Canada is doing wonderful things to add to available skilled airmen—to the envy of young Americans who have a chivalrous flair, but so far are not in the war for the salvation of humanity, and differ from our American Ambassador who recently on arriving in the States declared that the United States "must and will stay out of the war."

"Britain is not now looking for man power. This is a war not of men, but of machines," he added.

Defending the Munich pact, he said that Mr. Chamberlain and "nearly every one in Britain knew that Munich was but an armistice, the last opportunity given to the Allies to make up in part at least for their tragic failure to understand the peril to their very lives as nations."

If Mr. Chamberlain had had 5,000 first-line planes at home when he conferred at Munich "we should truly have seen peace in our time."

What we want to know is why were those planes not ready?

It behoves U.S.A. to prepare for its own safety, which it is wisely doing. Compliments and cushions are soothing, but man power is the true test of a nation's conviction, and machines are little use without human manipulation.

POLES WILL ACHIEVE THEIR HEARTS' DESIRE.

Of all the peoples now hoping for help from Britain the Poles, in our opinion, have shown the finest spirit. We are glad to know that they have quite a number of their own nationals as nurses to look after them, it is a great charm to hear their own tongue in a foreign land.

After seeing the Polish troops in Scotland, Mr. Churchill has sent a letter to General Sikorski, their Commander-in-Chief, saying, "Their smart and resolute bearing convinced me that when the call for action comes they will confirm the reputation for soldierly and audacious bravery which they and their comrades have already won on the battlefields of Poland, France and Norway."

"Though their country be trampled underfoot by the oppressor, the Polish people who have struggled so long and so honourably for their natural existence and independence will in the end achieve their heart's desire."

COMFORTS FOR THE A.F.S.

Comforts, including socks, oil-wool oversocks, gloves and sleeveless pullovers, cigarettes, etc., are urgently needed for the Auxiliary Fire Service. Full particulars may be obtained on written application to Mrs. Thomas Hutchison, War Comforts Depot, 43, Green Street, Park Lane, W.1, to whom contributions can be sent.

The Royal Air Force Comforts Committee makes an urgent appeal to knitting parties and individual helpers all over the country, to send knitted woollens for the men in the Royal Air Force to 20, Berkeley Square, London, W.

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