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EDITORIAL.

"AFTER MANY DAYS."

Upwards of forty years ago the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council petitioned the War Office for military rank for Army Nurses, and urged that such improved status would maintain discipline throughout the Army.

But, no. It could not be done! For years, the Nursing Services continued to serve their country under difficulties, but year by year their value increased, and now, after many days, Principal Matrons, Matrons and Sisters are about to take the Army ranks of Lieut.-Colonel, Major, and Lieutenant respectively, under the new War Office Order.

Members of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, on attaining commissioned rank, will be entitled to the salute from Service men. Thus the Order regarding the "King's Commission" will apply to women officers of the Q.A.I.M.N.S. as well as to those of the T.A.N.S.

As a prehistoric petitioner for Military rank for Army Nurses in this country, we offer our heartiest congratulations to all concerned, especially to the Secretary of State for War, the Rt. Hon. David Margesson, M.C., M.P., and to the Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.I.M.N.S., Miss K. H. Jones, R.R.C.

We have very great pleasure in publishing the following communication from the War Office, which touches the right note in referring to the Registered Nurse.

MILITARY NURSES.

WORLD WIDE SERVICE WITH ARMY.

In these days when the public is well informed about the work being done by the women of the country, comparatively little is heard of that branch of women's war work undertaken by the State Registered Nurses, who were mobilised with the Army on the outbreak of hostilities and who, from the first, have been serving as an integral part of His Majesty's Forces in all the war areas.

Ready At Once.

In September, 1939, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service and Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve and the Territorial Army Nursing Service were organised so that they were at once able to take their place in the Army and, by September 10th, 1939, the first six Sisters of the B.E.F. had landed at Cherbourg, followed in the next two or three weeks by the whole of the Nursing Staff of the first contingent, which included General Hospitals, Casualty Clearing Stations and Ambulance Trains.

In France.

Before the end of September, 1939, there were Members in the now familiar grey and scarlet uniform to be seen up and down the northern districts of France, from the Belgian Frontier to La Baule and Brest on the Atlantic coast. Later on, Territorial Army Nursing Service Units also arrived in France, and the co-operation of these two Nursing Services with the Royal Army Medical Corps during the evacuation of the B.E.F. is an episode which will long be remembered by those who were responsible for these British women.

All Returned Safely.

It is a fact, not known to many, that these 1,300 State Registered Nurses all returned safely to England after a series of experiences which already proved that the traditions of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service and the Territorial Army Nursing Service had already been faithfully upheld by its present Members during the period up to June, 1940. Since that date British Sisters have been sailing away from the United Kingdom month by month to accompany the Army to all the war areas from Hong Kong to Iceland.

Greater Strength Needed.

It is entirely due to the fact that Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service and the Territorial Army Nursing Service had enrolled their Reserve Members and had kept up their organisation since 1918 that it has been possible to staff all the Home and Field Units up to date. Many more Members will be needed if hostilities are protracted.

The British Nursing profession must see to it that the Field Units are never left short of their establishment of trained nurses, who, under the most difficult circumstances, with their skill and training can nurse their soldier patients with the minimum of untrained assistance. In those distant lands where casualties may cause a shortage of Royal Army Medical Corps orderlies, who could perhaps not be replaced by other help than convalescent patients, it is essential that the trained nursing staff should be kept up to strength.

Part of Armed Forces.

Enrolment in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve and the Territorial Army Nursing Service is voluntary, but these Services are now to become a part of the Armed Forces of the Crown. The work of these Sisters is essentially Military, *i.e.*, Active Service, with Home Hospitals acting as Depots preparing and assembling more and more Sisters to take their turn when they are required to embark for duty in war areas.

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