

## A CALL TO YOUNG WOMEN OF BRITAIN.

GLADYS M. HARDY, S.R.N., D.N.(LOND.), F.B.C.N.

Young women of England, you who are leaving your schools and colleges and are proudly carrying with you your Matriculation and other certificates, are anxiously wondering how you can best serve your country in its hour of crisis.

So many careers pass before your vision, for the most part offering only temporary employment made possible by war conditions, and which will end when victory is won. All these are necessary, but your real desire should be to fit yourselves for a profession in which you may continue when peace returns, and which will give the greatest possible service to your Empire.

There is a clarion call sounding now, loudly and urgently! England needs more nurses; trained Nurses; with skilful hands, keen perception; with clear brains, cool high courage, confident, disciplined, womanly. She needs specially at this crisis Nurses for her brave Service men, her mothers and babies, her children and their breadwinners. She needs Nurses to fight disease, to work side by side with the Medical Profession, so that when this war is won, healthy and sound British people will inherit this land, the saving of which is now costing so dear.

Do not be satisfied with anything less than the best. Demand to be trained; acquire high skill and efficiency. See that your talents are not wasted at this critical period. Untrained hands are menacing; they fumble and hurt, they may infect wounds, cause epidemics, endanger life and limb and waste time and money now so precious.

Here—then—lies your career. In our great hospitals, throughout the land you will be trained. You will learn to defeat the enemies of the whole human race, those powers of darkness, disease, dirt and death. You will help to rescue babies, the Britons of to-morrow, and you will help in the glorious work of rehabilitation amongst those heroes to whom we owe our lives and our homes.

Soon, when the real front opens, and the big battles start, our Blue trains, fully loaded, will gently bear home the wounded. Think now, of our intrepid airmen, who go gaily up into the blackness of the nights and penetrate enemy territory, and fight in mortal combat. Think, too, of our valiant sailors who daily face the most ghastly terrors at sea, that we may be clothed and fed. Many will become casualties and need skill for their healing. Who knows when the full fury of the blitz will again descend on our cities and towns, with dire results in life and limb?

Can you bear the thought that these brave men and women must be tended by half-trained unskilled women? Dare England offer these heroes anything but the best in Nursing and Medical skill?

You know the answer. Go now and prepare yourselves by training for the high duty which will be yours, so that when the testing time comes the women of England, as ever, will be ready to play their part, fully equipped as efficient and skilful professional women should be.

You may ask yourselves: "Is training so absolutely essential? May not I assist in the First Aid Posts and Hospitals, or in the Nurseries for the duration? So many girls have given selfless, unprofessional service."

This is true, but their work is unskilled and costly, and their position is always subordinate, and they never acquire professional status and independence. Training moulds the character, disciplines the mind, confers poise and dignity. It enables one to acquire skill and its reward is independence. Girls of quality and with talent and brain make excellent nurses and are the best possible subjects for training.

The Nursing Profession is par excellence a woman's profession; it suffers practically no rivalry from the opposite sex, and all the higher posts in it are held by women. A Trained Nursing Service is valuable equipment in the Nation's War effort, and first-class equipment is essential to victory.

No doubt many of you have read Lord Gort's Dispatches of the B.E.F. in Flanders, and of their glorious retreat through Dunkirk, which were recently published. Never were braver men ever sent into battle; their courage, daring and loyalty have never been surpassed in the annals of our history. Yet their colossal efforts were nullified—by not being sufficiently equipped, and the enemy was able to work his evil designs only because of the superior training and equipment of his armies.

Our Government will, we hope, see to it that such a calamity will never be repeated; we women must see to it that the British Nursing Service remains as always the finest in the world, and that valuable British lives are not wasted through lack of skill and efficiency on our part.

Go now then, and choose your training school, commence and persevere in your training. Learn how valuable to the State is a race of first-class healthy individuals. Help to save the lives of babies and children, to crush and stamp out dangerous and crippling diseases like Tuberculosis and others. As you will have to carry the gospel of health and cleanliness to the people, you must at least know the laws by which health is maintained and improved. You have much to learn, but it concerns life and death and it is vital knowledge.

Your career will bring you happy and congenial companionship, and your education will continue at no cost to yourself and family. The Government to-day is at last alive to the vital necessity of a Skilled Nursing Service, and is busy improving conditions and salaries, so that the right type of girl will be attracted to it. Once a woman is trained and State Registered she need never fear unemployment, and her position amongst her fellow-men is assured. Never were opportunities more golden for girls of talent to take their gifts and place them at their country's service, and the reward will be greater than the most optimistic expectations.

Realise intelligently the present status of the Nursing Profession in the body politic. By Act of Parliament its social condition has been secured. It will be your duty to maintain the honourable standards to which you will be entitled when you become a Registered Nurse.

I feel sure you will carry forward the high ideals attained by our honoured pioneers.

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