

If you are already employed in any branch of the public health services, stay there. You are doing a job as vital as any in this total war.

If you are a fever nurse employed in some other form of nursing, which does not make use of your special experience, speak to your matron so that she may arrange for your release, if necessary, and write to me or to my colleague, the Secretary of State for Scotland, telling us your name. I will in a moment tell you how and where to write.

If you are a member of the Civil Nursing Reserve but are standing by—unemployed at the moment—write to us and offer your services. You will be released for the time being from your present obligations, if you are needed in this other special field. If you have nursed in fever hospitals and sanatoria, but have resigned—return now to the service. Should you only be able to work in your own neighbourhood, answer the advertisements of local institutions. But if you are willing to serve whole-time in any fever hospitals or sanatoria in the country, and if you have not yet passed your sixtieth birthday, again write to us and let us know.

I know that a number of you have resigned from the service recently for a variety of reasons. Some of you left because you were getting married. Well, I congratulate you upon your marriages. But this change in your domestic state means that you are at least as good nurses as you were before, and the nation fighting for its life needs this help from you. Others of you resigned because you wanted to go and nurse the troops. But in this war we are all troops. Children don't have to dress up any more in toy uniforms and helmets and pretend that they are soldiers; they are soldiers. Come and help to look after them when they are ill. Housewives who wish that they could strike a physical blow for freedom don't have to sigh for some Amazons' Brigade. They are warriors every one of them in the fray. There is no difference in the quality or the patriotism of your service, whether you nurse the victims of bombs or the victims of bacteria, and I know that you will not be deterred by any thought that service may bring you sometimes into the line of fire. For one of the things that I shall remember longest about this war is the lovely contempt for dangers that I have seen girls driving ambulances and working in hospital wards show.

Now get a pencil and paper and write down two questions that you should answer when you write to us. First, how many years' experience of fever or tuberculosis nursing have you had, and where? Second, are you working as a nurse now, and, if so, where?

Add your full name and address, and mark your envelope or post-card "Fever Nursing." If you live in England or Wales send it to me—

The Minister of Health,  
Whitehall,  
London, S.W.1.

If you live in Scotland, send it to—

The Secretary of State for Scotland,  
St. Andrew's House,  
Edinburgh.

#### THE CALL FOR A BRITISH-BORN MATRON-IN-CHIEF OF THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL—WAR OR NO WAR.

*The Times* reports: "The great health problem of the immediate future is how to obtain the nurses required for fever hospitals, sanatoria, and for the care of the aged and infirm. The London County Council lost 1,100 of their staff in September, October, and November. They are now short of 300 nurses in their fever hospitals."

Is it surprising that the service of the L.C.C. is depleted? With autocratic stupidity, this rate-supported Council, on the regrettable death of its Matron-in-Chief, appointed as her successor a woman of German-Swiss birth—trained and working in England, who had failed to become naturalised for years, until placed in a remunerative office by the L.C.C. Naturally, this unpatriotic appointment called forth a public protest from self-respecting and patriotic nurses—that more have not resigned from the Council's service is to be regretted. Great wrongs deserve punishment. It is the only method by which they can be righted. Unfortunately, it is the sick in this instance who are the sufferers, and we again call upon the L.C.C. to place its Nursing Service under the direction and control of a British-born Matron-in-Chief, war or no war.

### INOCULATION OF CHILDREN AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

#### MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO PARENTS.

The following message is issued by the Minister of Health, Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, to all parents:—

You are strongly advised to have your children, both those who are of school age and those who are under that age, inoculated against diphtheria. Even in peace time, this is the most dangerous of children's diseases, and for children of certain ages is the main cause of death. There has not been any increase in the number of diphtheria cases this autumn, but the circumstances of the war in the coming winter will greatly increase the risks. That is why, as Minister of Health, with the unanimous support of medical opinion and of Lord Horder's Committee on shelters, I urge you to have your children inoculated as soon as possible.

In this country the numbers of children who have been so protected are far below what is wise and necessary. It is parents in the United States of America and in Canada who have given practical proof of how great are the benefits of widespread inoculation against diphtheria. Their experience shows that if a large majority of the children of each year below 15 are inoculated, the disease is practically abolished. For example, in New York, the death rate amongst children between one year old and 15 was reduced by this means from 27 per 100,000 in 1929 to two per 100,000 in 1935, and it has been maintained at a low level ever since. The latest corresponding figure for England and Wales was 31 per 100,000. These statistics may read dryly until you realise that they represent the lives and deaths of children, and that they show that large numbers of young people in this country needlessly die.

Therefore, get your own children inoculated, and save them from this risk. Children of all ages between one and 15 should now be given this protection. Nor is it only the children of towns and cities who need it, but children in all parts of the country. The process is simple; it does not upset the child in the least. It is done free. The Government are providing the local medical authorities with adequate supplies of the necessary substance. You should seek advice how to go about getting your child inoculated from your local Medical Officer of Health's department in the Town Hall, or from the officers of the School Medical Service, or from health visitors and the maternity and child welfare workers. Doctors and nurses in the shelters can also advise those of you who frequent shelters. Parents who have evacuated their children to the country should reply favourably at once to any letter from the local authority asking whether they agree to have their children inoculated where they are. I ask for your whole-hearted co-operation in this campaign to strengthen the health of the children of our country.

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