

Brave men are offering their lives for our country. The loss of sight is a sacrifice we must not lightly accept, without ourselves making sacrifice for its loss.

"Athena" states in *The West Australian* that what is probably one of the most important war-time positions to be held by a woman in Australia is at the present time held by Miss Janet Sinclair Wood who, as Matron-in-Chief of the Australian Military Forces, has the task of supervising the entire nursing organisation of the army at home and abroad.

Many returned nursing sisters in Perth will remember Miss Wood whom they had the pleasure of entertaining when she passed through Fremantle on her return from the coronation celebrations. Trained at the Adelaide Hospital Miss Wood was matron of Maitland and Burra hospitals, South Australia, before going abroad on military service during the Great War. On her return to Australia she was appointed matron of the Broken Hill District Hospital and later had her own private hospital in Adelaide. Prior to her present appointment Miss Wood was principal matron of the 4th Military District, in which capacity she has given much helpful advice to South Australian nurses who have already gone abroad.

Because so many British and Dominion nurses are now with our armies in the Middle East, the Y.W.C.A. have sent to Cairo their general secretary in India, Miss Jean Begg, to organise for the nurses rest and recreation centres.

Miss Begg is a New Zealander who has worked in many parts of the world. She hopes soon to establish three huts in three desert camps, and to reopen a holiday rest camp near the Pyramids.

For these excellent objects Lady Halifax, as President of the Y.W.C.A., is launching an appeal for funds.

Why has such work not been undertaken by the Nursing Profession? We have plenty of Registered Nurses qualified for the task.

Lady Warrender and Mme. Zaleski, wife of Poland's Foreign Minister in London, are both greatly interested in all kinds of social work for Poland in this country.

The *Daily Telegraph* states: "More news of the harsh treatment of Polish girls and women who were sent to compulsory labour in Germany is given in the International Transport Workers' Federation.

"Thousands of women have been taken to work on landed estates in East Germany and others to the households of Nazi leaders. 'What happens to our girls here is a crime,' say other Polish workers in their letters home. 'Many have been assigned to military barracks.'"

We realise what that means in an army of brutalised men. In Poland the people are suffering every indignity—including semi-starvation.

It is announced from Istanbul that the Turkish authorities have ordered all German nurses and governesses to leave Turkey within fifteen days. These, it is stated, number several hundred. We cannot blame the Turks, who are our loyal supporters in this war, for taking precautions against espionage, indeed, they show their sense; would that our authorities had clearer vision where aliens are concerned.

GIFTS FROM THE QUEEN.

The dress which the Queen wore in the Senate Chamber at Ottawa during the Royal tour in 1939 has been presented to Canada on her behalf by Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, wife of the Governor-General.

In appreciation of the work being done in America by the "Bundles for Britain" committee, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth recently ordered a gift to be sent to this war relief agency and it was placed on auction at the "Bundles for Britain" ball which was held in New York. The Queen's action was regarded in America as an impressive tribute to international philanthropy and it is said that this is the first occasion on which a reigning British queen has made such a gesture.

The scope of the relief efforts of the "Bundles for Britain" is now nation-wide in U.S.A., and is directed through specialised committees. Since last winter this agency has been sending to England regular supplies of medical goods, surgical instruments, woollen clothing for enlisted men serving in the North Sea, and clothing for British war victims.

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

We desire to express warm gratitude to the many kind members of the College who have been good enough to remember us at Christmas and New Year. They have helped to lighten the weight of disaster which the loss, owing to "enemy action," in other words (barbarous murder of noble women serving the sick) has caused us. Lack of space prevents the publication of their letters, but from the following letters the spirit of the British College is expressed:—

Chins Up!

"MY DEAR MRS. FENWICK,—Just a little note, sent with all my love to wish you a very happy and restful Christmas—as far as possible—and a much brighter New Year.

I hope and pray that all the terrible trouble may end in glorious victory for us very soon.

I am not a broken reed, and I do hope you did not go to much trouble in preparing for my visit for restful and instructive reading and study at the College.

Much has happened in my little place, but not actually to the hospital—but desperately near—but I am thankful to say, so far, we are all safe, and carrying on good work.

It was impossible for me to attempt to get to town, so visiting our dear college, and reading there, has been out of the question. My 'chin' is well up, and I hope to visit you in the New Year early.

With my love and good wishes—"

Our arrangement for the study by the writer of *Nursing History and Organisation* from the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING* would have been very instructive, and is, we hope, only deferred. The ignorance of the majority of nurses in this country of their own affairs is amazing, and before the new Incarnation, after the war, it will be their duty to come to the Conference table equipped with the knowledge and conscientious conviction—if their opinion is to be worth consideration.

141, Ridout Street, N.

London, Canada.

"Greetings and all kind thoughts and wishes. I do think of you all in our dear country constantly. My daily prayers go up for your safety and welfare.

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