

and the British Medical Journal, and is beyond our scope.

Our chief concern is :—

1. That we should be able to supply as many contingents of well-trained capable and physically-fit nurses for active service on our New Zealand Army Nursing Service, both for our troops at the front, and for those training in New Zealand, as are required of us.

2. (a) That the sick in our public hospitals in New Zealand should not suffer in any way from an over-depletion of the nursing staffs. (b) That the training of nurses in our hospitals will not deteriorate but rather be improved to meet the increased demands.

3. That the number of country district nurses should not be reduced, and a reasonable number of nurses be available for private work in people's own homes.

To deal with No. 1, we can safely say that there is scarcely a trained nurse in New Zealand who would not gladly and willingly go on active service for our British soldiers and sailors should she be called upon. Nurses are everywhere clamouring to go. Only the best and fittest should be sent, as the strain and responsibility must of necessity be great.

To ensure No. 2 a great restraint must be put on the natural ambition of most nurses. Florence Nightingale is still an ideal. Who would not emulate her? Blessed lady of the lamp! Thrice envied are those chosen nurses who have gone to the front; but as long as we know that sufficient of our best are available for active service, we will surely smother the heart-ache to be going too, and gird ourselves to our work here, for our sick are still with us in our hospitals, and although somewhat out of the limelight at present, hospital work is good and satisfying. We will go on training fresh nurses, keeping our high ideals before them. We can help to send out the best for active service, use our leisure in making and teaching how to make hospital garments and equipment. They have been told to let us know what is most needed at the front, and it will be something to be able to supply these. We can thus keep in touch with our own nurses: our interests are widened, our work should be better.

There are many nurses at present unwilling to take hospital positions in case they lose their chance for active service. We would advise these nurses unless they have been selected for the next call to consider the needs of the hospitals, especially those to which they owe their training.

To matrons, district nurses and all who are not called up, we would say "Be patriotic enough to do your share here."

A great deal is being said about the need of women for service in the hospitals in Egypt and Malta to work in the kitchens and as ward maids, and as assistants to trained nurses. We know in military hospitals it is usual to employ men for this work and generally the only women employed on the staffs are trained nurses. This must greatly simplify the administration, always supposing that suitable men are available, but should this not be the case then it might with advantage be considered whether the numerous women willing and anxious to undertake this work could not be formed into an organised body and their services utilised. The great difficulty would be that, unlike trained nurses, women in other walks of life are unaccustomed to discipline.

It is inadvisable to employ probationers in large numbers in hospitals where a course of training is not available, and this could scarcely be arranged for under active service conditions, when no one would have time to lecture and teach and properly supervise the work and conduct of young probationers. For kitchen and domestic work it would seem that the labour most suitable would be that available on the spot, for climatic reasons if no other.

In view, therefore, of the muddle and disorganisation caused in some military hospitals in England and France by the employment of untrained women on their staffs, we would strongly deprecate any movement made here for sending such to Egypt, and hope that the Government will not give the proposal any encouragement. To spend the money in sending half the number of trained nurses rather than these women would be productive of much more good to our troops.

These women should not be recognised in any way as nurses if employed, nor ad-