For still I'll rejoice when the sailors rejoice,
And weep with the sailors that cry,
Let me live in my house by the side of the sea
Where the sailor boys go by.

(With apologies to Sam Walter Foss.)

WILL YOU BE A WAR WORKER?¹

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How can we women help win the war by our mental and physical labor? With men the question is simple, Army, Navy, agricultural or industrial branches are open to them, for which they have been fitted by training. Women want to equal men in achievement, all for the war. Our sisters have gone into many fields as chauffeurs, truck drivers, munition workers, conductors and even as farmerettes to take the place of men called to the firing line. Each one has a place of duty, the personal character being often the deciding factor.

"I'd love to be a trained nurse" is an expression common enough. Let us consider it. "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread!" The United States hasn't felt any real war suffering. Sickness as usual, from ordinary causes, with every convenience at hand, is no great hardship. Wait till our men are sent back to us, then realization of war horrors will come as our Allies know it. To nurse the ordinary sick with the best of equipment is trying, to nurse the wounded tests nerves of steel. Have you that strength?

Women have been trained for the home, therefore when you enter the training school for nurses you will enter a new sphere of endeavor with far stricter codes than the home. In training you are comparable to the enlisted man of the army. Both give up some personal pleasures in perfecting a system of discipline upon which is based efficiency. Respect for superiors and obedience to rules, regulations and orders is required. Experienced officers of our Allies warn our fighters again and again that we must secure the strictest discipline of our troops in order to succeed. It is not every woman who can bring herself under hospital discipline. Can you?

Nursing tests character. To meet the test, strong character is essential. The patient studies minutely those about him and bases his opinion of their character upon the outward signs which are in-

¹ Read before members of the Training School, Ithaca City Hospital, February, 1918.

fallible indications of character. Upon making a new acquaintance do you not size him up by some or all of the following? appearance, voice, facial expression, carriage, touch or character of work. A nurse must possess tact to be a good disciplinarian. Men do not want a doll ambling around; they want a nurse with a backbone in her. Soldiers are trained in handling men. They admire a good boss and a good boss must have tact. Unpleasant situations arise; can you by your tactfulness say or do the right thing? Or are you like the kindly-minded neighbor who, coming in to visit a patient with a bad cold, consoled her by remarking, "I had a woman friend who had a cold. She called the doctor at 8 p. m. and at midnight she was a corpse." Tact secures the confidence and good will of the patient. You want to be a nurse, then study yourself and ascertain if you have the character requirement. Your success will be measured not only by what you know but by what you are.

Civilians at their desks have told us how easily we could send over a great army of men and win the war. You have probably said that you could go at once into active nursing service. Don't say it again! Stop! Senators have asked why we haven't gone *en masse* to Europe fully equipped. Our department heads have told of the great obstacles to be surmounted. Nurses like soldiers must be prepared by careful training before they are fitted for efficient work. Haven't you read of the "free lance" menace in Europe? women who want to do good but who are untrained and unattached. By lack of training and organization they become a mob. "Success in battle is the ultimate object of all military training; success may be looked for only when the training is efficient and thorough," says the Infantry Drill Regulations. Success is the same the world over. Do you want to be a success as a nurse? Thoroughness is the keynote of German success. Can we afford to be less thorough?

Know thyself and knowing, enter the highest and most specialized branch of woman's endeavor,—nursing, with loyalty and sincerity of purpose to succeed.

King George has awarded the military medal to three nurses for bravery, coolness and conspicuous devotion, displayed in performance of their duties on occasions when the casualty clearing station had been under hostile shell fire and bombed by enemy aircraft.