

America has steeled itself for a terrible struggle, with the implacable determination to hammer out a complete victory—decisive and final.

Even so, not all of you can “follow the flag.” The needs are many and the opportunities are great here at home, especially for those of you who have the character and initiative which, with use, may develop into leadership. The capacities of each and every nurse at home or abroad whether in military or civilian uniform will be tried to the utmost in the struggle which lies ahead. And some of us, when the going gets tough, will remember the story of the chaplain on Bataan who, in the midst of a bombing, stood praying in the center of a ward until the nurses, and the anguished patients in the triple-decker beds quietly joined him in the Lord’s Prayer. Remembering the nurses of Corregidor, we know that you, too, the graduates of ’42 will have to work very hard to justify your heritage.

Federal Legislation— and Nursing

THE FISCAL YEAR of the national government begins on July first. Within the next year, the Army anticipates need for 30,000 nurses.

On June 17 the President signed the “Pay Readjustment Act.” It will be recalled that, when this bill “to readjust the pay and allowances of the personnel of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Geodetic Survey, and the Public Health Service” was introduced last October the ANA immediately swung into action and urged all state associations to take appropriate action in regard to it. Section 13 of the bill, which provides for increases for

Army and Navy nurses, has remained unchanged throughout the long discussion of the base pay of enlisted men.

The annual base pay of nurses is increased from \$70 to \$90 per month for the first three years of service. Nurses have the same allowances for quarters and subsistence as commissioned officers below the grade of brigadier general. Provision is made for increases in base pay at the end of each three years of service up to the thirteenth year. Generous provision has been made for sums in addition to base pay for chief nurses and others who attain positions in the higher brackets of responsibility and for retirement. Many nurses do not seem to understand that the pay and allowances of reserve nurses, i.e., Red Cross nurses, when assigned to the Army or Navy Nurse Corps, is exactly the same as that of members of the regular Corps in the same brackets.

A recent change of policy in the War Department, which will also speed up the recruitment of needed nurses, is contained in War Department Circular 183, which provides that

An officer appointed in the Army of the United States must at the time of appointment be a citizen of the United States or of the Philippine Islands or a citizen of a co-belligerent or friendly country who otherwise possesses the same qualifications as a citizen of the United States.

The bill carrying an appropriation of \$3,500,000 (see *News About Nursing*) is still in Congress as our pages close. If it goes through it will ensure continuation and expansion of the government’s program to relieve the acute shortage of qualified professional nurses vital to war service. Funds made available for “Training for Nurses (national defense)” in the fiscal year now ending totaled \$1,800,000.