

Nurses In The Army Bring Cheer To The Wounded Jawans

THE WAR was over sooner than any one would have imagined possible. But for the nursing officers of the Military Nursing Service (MNS) the war had just begun. They are fighting a war in their wards to save the lives of many a wounded jawan to give them a new lease of life.

Their sense of duty and concern for human lives are paramount in their efforts to kindle hope in the sobbing hearts of a father, a young wife or the little children whose near and dear ones have fallen victims of enemy action in the 14-day Indo-Pakistan War. The casualty figures of the war which ended at 8 P.M. on December 18, 1971 were: 2473 Killed; 665 Wounded and 2238 Missing.

The "Angels of mercy" are valuable both in war and peace. The Military Nursing Service is the most occupied branch of the profession in the post-war period. The Nursing officers are on 24-hour call duty in the various military hospitals where they take care of the heroes of the war. They not only balm the wounds but bring cheer to the wounded. Apart from bed-side nursing they are busy writing letters for the invalid soldiers, reading to them letters from their near ones and answering anxious questions on the progress of their recovery.

The Principal Matron of a hospital said: "My nursing officers rose to the occasion. They voluntarily forego their off days and regular meals. Even when I sent them away for a few hours rest, they were soon back in their wards. Their sense of duty and dedication are highly commendable." She had a special word for the student nurses for their hard work.

The Commandant of a Field Hospital said that the nursing officers even volunteered to work in the war front. They were not

afraid. But they are kept only in the base hospitals.

The Nursing officers performed 12-14 hours duty in a day without grudge or grumble and drew satisfaction for being most useful to the wounded jawans in the service of the nation.

Every war has some unknown warriors and so were these "lady soldiers" of the MNS.

An officer said that everything about everybody else came in the newspapers and on the T.V., but the MNS were totally forgotten. By expressing this sentiment they were not asking for any publicity. They deserve encouragement and recognition for their work. The society should understand the value of their service
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Miss Chandralekha, Student Nurse of the Military Hospital, has a word of cheer for the wounded Jawan.