

WOMEN VOLUNTEERS.

Twenty-six women of the Ottawa Civil Service are active members of the Women's Voluntary Aid Detachment of the St. John Ambulance Association and ten of their number have volunteered for active service overseas.

When the war broke out the large number of persons in Ottawa who were connected with or had taken classes of instruction under the St. John Ambulance Association were eager for some opportunity to make themselves useful. A number of men went to the front with field ambulances and other units, but as the women were not fully trained nurses their services were not called for. To provide employment for women volunteers, along similar lines of work, the Women's Voluntary Aid Detachment was formed. Only two men were included in its personnel—Lieut.-Col. Street as honorary commandant, and R. Patching, who had long been secretary of the local centre of the St. John Ambulance Association, as quartermaster. Lieut.-Col. Street is now overseas and Mr. Patching has retired, so the Detachment is composed exclusively of women volunteers.

For a time the Detachment had few opportunities for work, but the opening of the Sanford Fleming Home for Convalescent Soldiers gave them their opportunity. Three or four members of the organization have been constantly on duty at the Home ever since it was opened, the assignments changing weekly.

A short time ago there came a call for volunteers from the Detachment to go overseas to do similar duty at convalescent homes in the British Isles, and a number of members promptly offered their services. Ten of these volunteers are from the Civil Service, viz., Misses Florence Brown (Trade and Commerce), Edith M. Daws (Customs), Beatrice Holmes

(Interior), Alice Houston (Post Office), Lois Jarvis (Railways and Canals), Agnes Low (Interior), Genevieve McGoey (Railways and Canals), Mary Percival (Interior), Winnifred Raye (Militia and Defence) and Margaret Wilson (Customs).

Other Civil Service members of the organization are Misses Marion Calhoun (Mines), Georgette Dufour (Post Office), Lily Emery (Agriculture), Zephrina J. Flanagan (Railways and Canals), Annie F. Grant (Railways and Canals), Hazel Hayes (Railways and Canals), Bertha Jeffers (Interior), Florence Lees (Post Office), M. A. Geraldine Leprohon (Interior), Ida M. Leslie (Interior), O'Connor (Post Office), Harriett Percival (Marine), Helen M. Robertson (Post Office), Helen M. Russell (Archives), Mary McKay Scott (Interior) and Alice E. Wilson (Mines).

All the young women who are qualified members of the Voluntary Aid Detachment are deserving of credit, for they have given a great deal of time and done a lot of hard work in order to be able to undertake a service devoid of all remuneration beyond that blessed consciousness of "doing their bit." Those who have volunteered to go overseas are willing to make still greater sacrifices in order to be of service to the Empire. They will go far from home, the work they will be called upon to do will not be easy nor altogether pleasant, their hours of duty will be long and they will be under severe discipline. Every one of them will be under considerable personal expense, as the pay in the service which they are entering is very small.

These young women are needed in England. Were it not so they would not have been asked for. It is to be hoped that the Government will afford every possible facility and assistance to those from the Civil Service who are among the overseas volunteers.