

hand the really brave man would have refused to fire at the risk of losing his own life for his act of disobedience.

In the beautiful Ægean Sea some time ago a British transport vessel was torpedoed. A French vessel was instrumental in saving a number of the persons on board the sinking ship, which was the *Marquette*, bearing New Zealand troops and nurses. The captain of the French vessel is authority for the action of the nurses who with one accord called out: "Fighting men first." A number of the nurses perished in their devotion to duty; and the French captain remarks that this incident should never die in British history.

Then, again, but a few days ago the *Anglia*, a British hospital ship was sunk in the English Channel by either a mine or torpedo. On board were many wounded and sick soldiers returning from France. The nurses remained steadfast at their posts assisting the sick and wounded into the small boats, and a rescue vessel that came on the scene. As a result of this performance of duty twenty nurses went down with the sinking *Anglia*. They could have escaped, but chose the path of duty, though it meant the loss of their lives.

HYPOCHLORITES AS ANTISEPTICS.

The revival of the use of hypochlorous solutions for treatment of wounds in war, marked by the publication in this journal of the paper by Professor Lorrain Smith and his colleagues at Edinburgh, giving the results of their experimental observations on the antiseptic action of hypochlorous acid (July 24th), and that by Dr. H. D. Dakin on the use of a particular hypochlorite solution (August 28th), which he considers, and Dr. Carrel appears to agree with him, presents certain advantages, is one of the interesting developments of military surgery brought about by the experiences of the present war. A report by Dr. John Fraser on the value of hypochlorous acid in the treatment of cases of gas gangrene, published last week, contains striking evidence of the remarkable effect of the Edinburgh hypochlorite preparations to which the names "eusol" and "eupad" have been given. We understand that the Medical Director-General, R.N., has arranged with Sir Watson Cheyne, one of the consulting surgeons to the navy, to test the value of the hypochlorite solution devised by Dr. Dakin, and that they are now working together in a hospital ship employed in the Mediterranean. We hope that the medical profession as a whole may shortly have an opportunity of learning the results of their investigations and experiences.—*Brit. Med. Jour.*