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LOWER AGE LIMIT IN CIVIL NURSING RESERVE

Girls who wish to take up nursing as their war work can now join the Civil Nursing Reserve as nursing auxiliaries at the age of 17½ instead of 18.

The Civil Nursing Reserve, organised by the Ministry of Health, which consists of three grades - trained nurses, assistant nurses and nursing auxiliaries - has at present 29,000 members in whole-time employment in Hospitals, First Aid Posts, Reception Area Services, Rest Centres and Shelter Medical Aid Posts.

Of this total 19,000 are nursing auxiliaries. Recruits for this grade, who need have no previous experience, but must in general be willing, if necessary, to serve in any part of the country, are given a fortnight's free training with an allowance of 10s. a week. When accepted for service they receive a salary of £55 a year, in addition to free board, lodging, laundry and uniform. If an auxiliary member under the age of 30 wishes afterwards to take up nursing as a career she can apply to become a student nurse.

The lower age limit does not apply to Scotland, where the minimum age of entry of nursing auxiliaries is still 18 years.

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH.