

**TO THE YOUNG WOMEN
OF THE UNITED STATES**

"I want every young woman in the country, every woman between 19 and 35, to read carefully what I have to say, and to give it earnest attention. It is a message which every girl ought to welcome because it tells of an opportunity to help the nation.

"The army and the country face a shortage of nurses.

"The army alone will require something like 25,000 nurses by the first of next January. We have secured about 13,000 of this number; we need 12,000 more. We have got to have them or the army will run short—and this would be an outcome incredible and intolerable to the American people.

"Only graduate nurses who have been thru the full course of training are available for this high service. These nurses have to be taken out of the hospitals and from care of the sick at home. This means that when we recruit our full quota for the army their places in the civil communities must be filled. Hence this call for student nurses—to fill the vacancies, prepare for professional service, and meanwhile to make it possible for our hospitals, both civil and military, to carry on, and for the American people to hold the health standards of the country as high as they have ever been held in times of peace.

"If I were a young woman and wanted to do my country the greatest service in my power, I should go at once to the nearest recruiting station of the woman's committee of the council of national defense and enroll in the United States student nurse reserve. This enrollment would at once make me a candidate for the army nursing school or for one of the civilian training schools for nurses. I cannot conceive of a more

service. I can give every girl who enrolls in the reserve my personal assurance that she is making herself count, and I should be ashamed of any woman who did not long with all her heart and soul to make herself count in the defeat of Germany."

"(Signed) G. C. GORGAS.

"Surgeon General, United States Army."