

homes and daily lives of every last one of the people. In such a war the participation of our women will be not only tragically greater, but immensely more important. Obviously, under such conditions the women's task of preserving morale in her home, and thus helping to insure its preservation throughout the State and Nation, will be rendered vastly more difficult and by the same token tremendously more important.

At the same time our women would then be called upon for many types of duties never before performed by the women of America. Already many thousands of them throughout the Nation as well as throughout our own State are enlisted as air raid spotters, under the banner of civilian defense. Among some of the other duties that will be delegated to women, and for which volunteers will be asked when the time is ripe, are auxiliary police, fire watchers, nurses and nurses aids, messengers, members of driver corps, and of emergency food and housing corps, to mention the more important of these Civilian Defense Services.

Under the leadership of the State and District Councils of Defense, organizations of women are being set up in each county of the State under whose leadership are being prepared complete lists of all available women volunteers, with information as to the particular types of emergency work for which they may be fitted.

More and more, if the emergency should grow worse, members of your business women and professional groups will find their services required also for the replacing and assisting of men in all the various fields in which you now are engaged. At the moment the most serious need is in the professional group, where thousands of nurses are lacking at the moment. There will be need thus for many nurses of other years who, due to the demand of their families, have withdrawn from the practice of their profession but who still retain much of the skill and knowledge that once was theirs.

All in all, the women of our Nation face the busiest, the most important era that women have ever been called upon to face in all the history of the world. Fortunate indeed, are we then that through the efforts of far-seeing women and those early protagonists of women's rights, the women of our Country have progressed to that stage where they are entirely competent to meet the demands upon them.