

Sir George Alexander at the St. James's Theatre, is an American by birth. Most people apparently forget this fact, for it is some years since she made her first appearance in London in a German-cum-American comic opera, called, if memory is correct, 'Madame Sherry.' The late Miss Florence St. John played the name part, and Miss Norma Whalley was a beautiful and tempestuous Portuguese dancer who carried a dagger in her stocking. Miss Whalley made a distinct personal success; but the operetta, though tuneful, was not good, and its life was a short one. In earlier days, Miss Whalley was counted among the beauty girls of several famous New York productions, and she still has every right to claim the descriptive adjective although she has advanced considerably both in professional and social distinction.

"The number of ladies who have been, or are still, connected with the stage and who are 'going in' for nursing is gradually increasing. Though Miss Felicity Tree is not on the stage she certainly is of it, and the fact that she is training in France is naturally highly interesting. In fact, there are many youthful and charming ornaments of 'the profession' who seem most anxious to emulate the example of the fair Russian dancer, Mlle. Ida Rubinstein, who has her own hospital in Paris, where she tends wounded soldiers. She is always most tastefully clad in 'white samite mystic, wonderful,' and wears the trickiest little white shoes with big jewelled buckles. A few years ago, Mlle. Rubinstein appeared at the Coliseum in a scena entitled 'The Dance of the Seven Veils.'"

Let us hope Mlle. Rubinstein will be on the spot to lend a "veil," should the Portuguese dancing of her colleague become too "tempestuous" at the front. No doubt, if these coryphées fall into the clutches of the Huns, the dagger might come in handy!

The special correspondent in Northern France of the *British Medical Journal* writes under the heading "British Red Cross Nurses":—

"Shortly before Christmas a moral bombshell fell in the hotels where British Red Cross nurses are quartered in France. A large number of them received notice that their existing engagements would be regarded as at an end on January 1st, though opportunity would be afforded them of re-engaging at half their original salary. Naturally they were much perturbed, their previous belief having been that there was a definite contract between each nurse and the Society, the former engaging to serve, at her own bodily risk and for not less than six months, wherever sent by the Society, and the Society being under an obligation for a like period to provide the nurse, so long as she was of good behaviour, with board, lodging, and a salary of £2 a week. Some of the nurses seemed disposed to contest the right of the Society to alter the terms of their engagements in the summary fashion indicated, but fortunately this proved unnecessary.

The authorities of the Society in France considered that, whatever its legal position might be, the new terms of employment proposed by headquarters in London for acceptance by the nurses in France could not in the circumstances justly be enforced. How the nurses would have fared had not this wise view of matters been taken it is difficult to say, for though the general intention of the 'contract' on which they were relying seems fairly clear, it is a loosely worded document which, from a legal point of view, probably binds no one to anything. Surmise is, however, superfluous since the incident is now happily at an end; nevertheless its occurrence is to be regretted. At the best of times the British Red Cross nurses in France, as a whole, are not in a very happy position. On various occasions the headquarters of the Society in London have hurriedly sent out a good many more nurses than the number for which the authorities of the Society in France could find employment, and one result among others has been that a considerable number of nurses have had exceedingly little to do during the whole period of their stay in France, and consequently regard their time as having been wasted and their skill as unappreciated."

At home the salary has been reduced to  $\frac{1}{2}$  a week. The truth is that trained nurses have not been fairly treated from an economic standpoint from the beginning of the War, and owing to the competition of volunteers, V.A.D.'s, and other untrained women, their only chance of service has been either at reduced pay, or no pay at all. The glamour of "the front" has, however, been irresistible; the trained nurse's heart is apparently "right there."

## JOINT WAR COMMITTEE.

### HOME HOSPITALS.

The following nurses have been sent out to Home Hospitals during the past week:—

*Highclere Castle, Newbury* (Lady Carnarvon).—Miss Gladys Owen.

*Auxiliary Military Hospital, Southall*.—Miss Ashworth.

*Northlands Red Cross Hospital, Emsworth*.—Miss Sewart, Miss Fletcher,

*Milton Hill, Steventon*.—Miss Simon, Miss Morris, Miss Gillingham.

*Indian Hospital, Brighton*.—Miss M. Gray, Miss C. Robinson.

*V.A.D. Hospital, Jeffrey Hall, Monk Street, Sunderland*.—Miss Callender.

*Waterworke, Cosham* (Mrs. Williams).—Miss E. A. Bailey.

*7, Charles Street, Mayfair*.—Miss Waugh, Miss Hand.

*Clarendon Lodge, Millbrook, Southampton* (Lady Dane).—Miss Chamberlain.

*Indian Hospital, Brighton*.—Miss Leitch.

*Helperton, Trowbridge, Wilts*.—Miss E. Leah.

*Hill Hospital, Lower Bourne, Farnham*.—Miss C. Ward.

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