

of Sister in Mr. Berry's wards at the Royal Free Hospital, Miss Lena Barber, Miss Florence Bartleet, the Hon. Florence Colbourne, Miss Julia Gore, Miss Margaret Hurley, Miss Jessie Sutherland, and Miss Catherine Webb.

The nurses looked very neat and smart in their serviceable uniform designed by Miss Cox-Davies, Matron of the Royal Free Hospital. It consisted of a dark blue coat with Raglan sleeves and soft turned down collar, faced with a lighter shade of blue cloth. The brassard on the left arm bearing the red cross was of the same shade of blue and the two shades were repeated in the soft felt hats. The dress worn under this coat was of dark blue serge, with facings of the lighter blue.

Miss Cox-Davies, in the uniform of a Principal Matron of the Territorial Force Nursing Service was busy pinning on favours of snowdrops, violets and white heather to each of the party, including Mr. and Mrs. Dickinson Berry.

Amongst others on the platform was Mrs. Creighton, who was there to see her daughter off, going with the party as cook, and Mr. Garratt, Secretary of the Royal Free Hospital, who is acting as Secretary to this Serbian Hospital Unit. As the train steamed out of the station a hearty cheer was raised on the platform by a number of friends who had come to wish the party God speed, and Mr. and Mrs. Berry responded from their carriage window, with wavings and a last adieux.

Every patriot feels the deepest sympathy with the Serbian people—themselves a nation of ardent patriots.

Twenty tons of stores were taken by this unit, and it is hoped to forward clothing in about a month's time.

#### SERBIAN RELIEF FUND.

Another party travelling by the same train and embarking on the Admiralty transport which is to take the whole party to its destination were Dr. Eliot, and the following nurses: Miss Scott, Miss Cluley, Miss Pickering, Miss Mackintosh and Miss Moore.

The transport will touch at Malta, and then proceed to Salonika, from whence the nurses will proceed to Uskub. We regret to hear that they are replacing members of Lady Paget's unit who are incapacitated by illness.

Another party of 10 or 20 nurses will shortly leave to supplement Lady Paget's unit, as there is much enteric fever in Serbia, and nurses are urgently needed.

#### FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

Now that many of the French wounded at the base at Rouen, Havre, and elsewhere are recovering from their critical period of illness, we are glad to know that the French Minister of War has consented to send the Guy's Unit of very experienced nurses from Havre to Dunkirk, where they hoped to arrive on the 12th inst., and are no doubt very fully occupied nursing enteric by now. We hear

very little of the real condition of things through the press, but the following statement in a letter received three weeks ago from a Sister at Dunkirk, proves how all along many more trained nurses have been required there to help combat the enteric outbreak. She wrote: "I hear enteric is rife here, and they have as many as 20 to 30 deaths a day from it. 200 patients are attended by one nun and some orderlies, the patients are allowed to get up to the night stools, even cases of hæmorrhage." The Ministry is favourable to the proposal to move up nearer the front those members of the Corps who have proved their worth at the base, many of whom have not only gained the confidence of the medical officers, but have so applied themselves to learning the language that many now speak French very fairly indeed, and are therefore doubly useful to doctors and patients.

As we anticipated from past experience the Bordeaux boat didn't feel like sailing last Saturday, so the eight members of the Corps, after awaiting its pleasure in London, may now be sent to the Rouen region to supply the places of the units to be sent to the front, as twenty more nurses have been requisitioned. As we go to press final arrangements have not been made. The difficulty is not to get good nurses, for the F.F.N.C., but to find sufficient who speak good French.

#### WHAT A SOLDIER OF FRANCE THINKS OF ENGLISH NURSES.

Depuis assez longtemps je le savais en France  
La femme se devoue, soulage la souffrance,  
N'hésite même pas à braver les dangers,  
Pour prodiguer ses soins à tous nos chers blessés.  
On la trouve partout, jusqu'au champ de bataille,  
Relevant les soldats couchés par la mitraille.  
Beaucoup, hélas, déjà sont mortes au Champ  
d'Honneur,

En voulant affronter la guerre et son malheur.  
Ce que vous faites là, femmes, est admirable;  
Votre exemple nous donne, à tous, plus de courage.  
Mais ce que j'ignorais, je viens de l'apprécier  
Nos sœurs d'outre Manche ont su vous surpasser.  
Par vos soins, O Sister, et pas votre obligeance  
A nous donner à tous, sans distinguer la nuance,  
Ce que peut réclamer même malade  
Qui devient exigeant, ennuyé d'être au lit,  
Ne sachant apprécier tout le mal qu'il vous donne,  
Ne pensant pas aux autres, et bien à sa personne,  
Vous contribuez bien plus à notre guérison  
Que les médicaments qu'on nous donne à foison.  
Aussi, permettez moi, chères sœurs d'Angleterre,  
De vous dire un merci, croyez il est sincère.  
Car je ne sais comment m'acquitter envers vous;  
Je me suis débiteur pour la fin de mes jours.  
Soyez sûres au moins, vous qui êtes si aimables.  
Que toutes vos bontés seront inoubliables.  
Avant de vous quitter, l'humble soldat de France  
Vous donne son adieu, plein de reconnaissance.

QUESNEL, sergent 136 d'Infie.

Tournan, 1914.

À Sister Eburah.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)