

supply of trained nurses. Now these cases are being drafted in great numbers to the base hospitals in France, and nurses working in French hospitals can no longer complain that they have nothing to do. We fear this terrible disease has got a bad hold of the troops of our Allies, and we are thankful to know that an increasing number of English nurses are now engaged battling with its ravages, both at the front and at the base.

In addition to the units of the French Flag Nursing Corps, composed of about eighteen nurses, sent to Dunkirk and elsewhere recently to nurse French soldiers suffering from enteric fever, we learn that Miss Edith Gregory (Bart.'s League), is there, battling almost single-handed in a hospital containing several hundred beds with an overwhelming number of these sufferers. Arrangements are most primitive—the poor patients having to get up themselves, and wrap their cold pack sheets around their burning bodies. How is it that such conditions can be? Surely our funds for sick and wounded are sufficiently munificent to have spared the cost of fifty English nurses to help combat this epidemic of enteric amongst the French troops. Action, we are glad to learn, is now being taken by the Friends Ambulance Unit to start a Fever Hospital at Dunkirk; and we hear it is probable that Miss Minnie Drakard, the experienced Matron of the Plaistow Fever Hospital, will be in charge of the nursing department. Nothing could be better.

From Lisieux we learn that the nurses are so busy night and day that they do not feel justified in taking time off duty. The night nursing, though specially valuable, is very arduous and the nurses take a fortnight's spell only at a time.

Some of the very best work done by members of the R.N.S. in France has fallen to the lot of Sister Bow and Sister Gramshaw, who have been engaged for sixteen weeks at Deauville. The former has charge of the Villa for enterics, and by careful nursing has saved many lives, and the latter has charge of the Salle d'opérations at the Casino. Both Sisters, who were given ten weeks' leave for nursing in France, should have returned long ago, but the Mayor of Deauville, and the four medical officers with whom they work, have all written to the office petitioning that the invaluable services of the Sisters may be retained for the French soldiers. Under these circumstances who could have the heart to withdraw them? We know how few comparatively really efficient English nurses have been able to take service in France. We believe by the time the War is over the skilled services of our thoroughly trained nurses will have done an immense amount to produce confidence and solidarity between the Allies. The soldiers themselves are very keen on having trained nurses attend them, and well know the difference between skilled and unskilled handling.

We are glad to get a letter from a nurse near the front who says, "we have not much inconvenience to put up with as this hospital is very well equipped," but she advises nurses to bring out stout rubber boots, as most of the nurses attached to hospitals live and sleep some way from them, and going to and fro to meals and sleep it is very necessary to be very warmly clad, and to keep the feet very dry. "It is our duty to keep well—and to be careful what one eats and not to get chills makes all the difference. Several nurses have suffered much from dysentery, but they are usually those who won't wear rubbers, and who will eat what they like, instead of what is good for them. Perhaps you will give this hint through THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, as it is most eagerly awaited and read every week. The patients love to see the photographs of nurses and patients together. They are so wonderfully patient and deeply grateful for our care. It is quite pathetic to hear them in the night, when one is rather run off one's feet, say as one passes their beds: "If you can spare time," and "When you've settled the other Johnnies," and "Don't worry about me, I can wait," &c. All the same how like children they are—these splendid wonderful creatures. Really one must be very impartial in one's attentions—especially about wounds. When I first came out here, I tried to buoy the really badly wounded men up by making light of their injuries. Sister was much amused: "They may call these ghastly gashes *scratches*, it is their little way," she said; "but don't *you* venture to do so. These men have risked their lives for *us*. You are to treat every wound with veneration."

We wonder if the Censor "snipped" less, and more of the truth was told, if it would not be better. If we at home really knew the truth would it not be impossible for hearty young chaps to remain, doing clerical work in Government and other offices, tapping typewriters, and doing much other work their fathers and sisters could do quite as well. A nurse writes: "It is pitiful to hear what the poor Tommies endure. One man told me to-day he saw two men bogged in the mud in the trenches and no one could get them out. Up to their knees in mud, and to the waists in water, he said they just fell over in the water and were drowned. A few days ago we get a lot of men in with frost-bitten feet, and they told us that many of the men were missing. They were leaving their trenches at night under cover of the dark only 75 or 80 yards from the Germans, and many of them could not walk and lay down on the ground crying with helplessness. He said they would crawl into deserted barns and huts, but the Germans were shelling these houses, and many would be killed and die of cold. Another Tommy told me he had seen fifteen Indians hung up in the barbed wire—they had been scrambling over, and wounded, and no one could rescue them as the fire was so heavy. They hung there a week and some of them were living at the end of it. You can imagine how all this makes

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