

The *Mecklenburg* left Flushing on the return journey at 8 a.m., and did not arrive at Folkestone till 8 p.m. There, owing to the weather conditions, the difficulty of landing the helpless patients was so great that finally the stretcher cases were taken over four at a time, with four orderlies in attendance, on cranes. It was most alarming, Miss Chittock relates, to see these bad cases swinging in the air, but the landing of all was safely accomplished.

Amongst the patients were three men who were quite blind, but nevertheless they were extraordinarily happy. The fortitude of all the men was wonderful. They never complained on being moved, or gave any sign of pain. Many had lost a limb, some two legs, one both hands, but those who remained on deck were singing at the top of their voices.

Once landed, the patients, who included seven officers, were quickly conveyed to the hospital train in waiting, where there were splendid places for the stretcher cases, a theatre with every convenience, and every comfort for the men. Ladies, in mufti, apparently not the Red Cross, served hot Bovril, just what the exhausted men needed, tea, biscuits, and sandwiches, and dealt out cigarettes. So cheered and refreshed, the journey to London passed quickly for the men, and on their arrival at Victoria there were ambulances waiting to take those still needing hospital treatment to the Military Hospital at Millbank, while those who were well enough proceeded at once to their own homes, where we may be sure a warm welcome awaited them, not only from their relatives, but from their fellow-townsmen, none of whom can ever forget the gallant stand they made for the Empire in its hour of need.

Incidentally we may note how many opportunities of usefulness are open to nurses who are linguists which are closed to those who know no language but their mother tongue. This war has brought forcibly home to nurses the wisdom of adding a sound knowledge of at least one foreign language to their accomplishments.

The King and Queen, always solicitous for the welfare of the sick and wounded, visited the Queen Alexandra Military Hospital on the day after the arrival of the prisoners of war there, and remained in the hospital for two hours, speaking a kindly word to each, and listening with interest to the stories told by the men. Their Majesties' visit was greatly appreciated.

The Princess Mary has also visited the hospital, and presented gifts from Her Royal Highness's Christmas Fund to the officers and men.

NURSING AND THE WAR.

Queen Alexandra has addressed the following autograph letter to the Lady Superior of the hospital at Béthune, which is one of many under the guidance of the Franciscan Sisters:—

"Madame la Supérieure,—I have learned through Dr. Martin of your noble and heroic devotion to our brave and unfortunate wounded soldiers, and it is with a heart full of gratitude that I beg you to accept my warmest thanks.

"I pray that God may reward you for the angelic care which you have lavished on our poor soldiers, and I shall never forget that it is to you, Madam, and to your Sisters that they undoubtedly owe their life and the restoration of their health.

"I beg you, Madam, to accept the assurance of my highest esteem."

MENTIONED IN DESPACHES.

We heartily congratulate the members of the Military Nursing Service, and of its Military and Civil Reserves, who have been honoured by being mentioned in despatches by Sir John French. None know better than nurses the depths of devotion of which members of their profession are capable, or the strenuous work which they constantly perform, so deftly and cheerfully that few people realize the strain involved. None therefore will be more appreciative of the honour conferred upon their colleagues than nurses themselves, for they know how thoroughly well such recognition is deserved, though the Sisters, we feel sure, will say they did no more than their duty.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S IMPERIAL MILITARY NURSING SERVICE AND ITS MILITARY AND CIVIL RESERVES.

The names of the following Matrons and Sisters of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service and its Military and Civil Reserves have been included in those brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for War in a dispatch by Sir John French, Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief of the British Forces in the Field, as recommended for gallant and distinguished service in the field. Matron M. M. Blakely and Sister M. Clements, Q.A.I.M.N.S.; Sister S. Coulters, Civil Hosp. Res. (Manchester R. Infirmary); Matron J. E. Dods, Q.A.I.M.N.S.; Sister F. E. Filkin, Q.A.I.M.N.S. Res.; Matron F. M. Hodgins, Q.A.I.M.N.S.; Sister V. N. Kiddle, Civil Hosp. Res. (Guy's Hosp.); Sister G. Knowles, Sister E. M. Lyde, Matron M. Mark, Sister E. J. Minns, Matron R. Osborne, Sister A. M. Phillips, Matron H. W. Reid, and Matron G. M. Richards, Q.A.I.M.N.S.; Matron A. B. Smith, R.R.C. Q.A.I.M.N.S.; Sister G. M. Smith, Q.A.I.M.N.S.; Matron L. E. C. Steen, Q.A.I.M.N.S.; Sister M. R. Stewart-Richardson, Q.A.I.M.N.S. Res.; Sister H. Suart, Q.A.I.M.N.S.; Sister M. M. Tunley, Q.A.I.M.N.S.; Sister E. Tulley, Civil Hosp. Res. (R. Infirmary, Edinburgh); Sister A. L. Walker, Q.A.I.M.N.S.; Matron M. Wilson, R.R.C., Q.A.I.M.N.S.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)