

## NURSING AND THE WAR.

The Urgency Cases Committee have had news of the safe arrival of their unit in Bar-le-duc. The hospital has been established in a pavilion block of a huge hospital, the Hôpital Centrale, a new building which was intended for barracks, and one of the staff writes that it is an ideal place for a hospital. There are fourteen large wards and seven smaller ones, and it is hoped that eventually there will be 100 beds. The military authorities were most kind in receiving the party, and expressed their delight at all the arrangements made by the Urgency Cases Committee. The Médecin Chef has put up a reception tent for them close to the front door, and his officials will fill up all the forms, and arrange for soiled uniforms to be taken away and washed and afterwards returned to the soldiers when they are discharged. This will avoid dirt and vermin being brought into the hospital. The washing and sanitary arrangements were rather primitive, but are being rapidly improved.

The North Ormesby Hospital at Middlesbrough, which at all times serves the public well, has contributed many earnest workers to nurse the sick and wounded. The Committee offered twenty beds to the Navy, and when Hartlepool was bombarded five wounded sailors from the ship *Patrol* which went out to help, brought back seven men, two, alas! dead, and five to be nursed back to health; one, sad to say, lost a leg. The nurses were invited to see the *Patrol* when dry-docked for repairs. Next the hospital got two Marines who escaped from Antwerp. These men had great adventures. When wounded they were taken to a convent hospital, but when discovered by the Germans were so badly treated that they got civilian clothes from the kind hostess, walked fourteen miles (one in slippers), got to the coast, found a cargo boat going to Middlesbrough, got aboard, and on the voyage passed the hospital ship *Rohilla*, and could do nothing in the storm to prevent her sinking.

Many of the medical and nursing staff of the North Ormesby Hospital are now on active duty in France and elsewhere, Miss Eva Smith, Miss M. Whent, Miss N. O'Brian, Miss Aaron being amongst them. All our hospitals are doing what they can to help in this national upheaval, and doing it very well. This JOURNAL has been taken by one Sister on the nursing staff of the North Ormesby Hospital from its first issue and after a quarter of a century she still sends us a kind letter of appreciation and praise. She is a loyal State Registrationist, and we hope she may still be in harness when our Bill becomes law, and find her faithful record of good work recorded in our register. All sorts of wonderful things are going to happen after the war to recompense women for their splendid record of patriotism, and of all classes our trained nurses will deserve well of the State.

The joint Anglo-Belgian Committee of the King Albert's Hospitals for Convalescent Belgian Soldiers, at the suggestion of their principal medical officer, Professor Jacobs, have decided to establish in London, under his immediate supervision, an institution where Belgian ladies will receive a course of instruction in the principles and practice of nursing. The demand for nurses at the Front and in Flanders is so urgent that the Committee feel that they may venture to make an appeal to the generosity of the British public. The sum of £2,000 is required for initial expenses for the equipment of the contemplated institution, where the prospective nurses will not only receive tuition, but will likewise find a home.

### "VICTORY IS NOT WON BY SHINING ARMS, BUT BY BRAVE HEARTS."

There are few people who are not moved by admiration and sympathy for the gallant country of Serbia, fighting against such tremendous odds. Happy those doctors and nurses who are able to translate those sentiments into practical help. The Serbian Relief Fund, the Women's Imperial Service League, the Anglo-Serbian Hospital with Mr. James Berry, Senior Surgeon of the Royal Free Hospital in charge, the Scottish Women's Hospital under Dr. Soltau, and others are doing admirable work, but many more doctors and nurses are needed to cope with the urgent situation.

Miss Scott who was one of the Sisters who went from Leicester to join Lady Paget's unit, gives a vivid account of the journey. After the vicissitudes of the journey by sea, the journey overland even though the quickest train travelled at the rate of twelve miles an hour, must have been a welcome change. "All along the mountains and roads you could see men on mules in such funny dresses, and riding or walking shepherds watching flocks of sheep, goats or pigs. Very often we saw crosses on lonely parts of the mountains which seemed to mark soldiers' graves."

Miss Scott two days after her arrival writes: "I think I shall love being here, but the work will be terribly hard, so many nurses and orderlies are ill. Things are very, very serious." Later, writing from the British Hospital, Skoplje, she adds: "The men are all very brave; one cannot help but like them. They are as simple as children, and very grateful for all you do. Fever is raging everywhere and fighting is stopping on that account. . . . It is wonderful to see the things and places around; all the time you are out you are reminded of Bible pictures. One of the funniest things is to see great big men riding such little donkeys, and the women walking behind carrying loads or children. Never do you see a woman riding. . . . All our nurses are going to wear Turkish dress, that is trousers and blouse. Washing cannot be done here. There is fever in nearly every house."

We regret to hear that Lady Paget is ill with typhus fever. Sir Ralph Paget has gone out to bring her home.

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