

to a hospital at Belgrade, in charge of Sir Alexander Ogston. She carried some beautiful flowers, crimson carnations and lilies of the valley.

Members of the committees under which the various units were going out, and many friends and well-wishers, including Dr. Percy Dearmer and Mrs. Dearmer, who themselves left for Serbia on Sunday, were on the platform to wish them God speed, and as the train steamed out of the station many were the hopes expressed that the little party—so little when one thinks of the great needs of Serbia—which was going to the post of honour, because the post of danger, would in good time come safe home again.

Miss A. Pell, who has just returned home, gives a terrible account of the conditions prevailing in Serbia :—

"The wounded brought into our hospital were," she says, "in the most appalling condition, and most of them had been travelling for a fortnight. Their wounds were dreadful, and they were horribly septic. We had no clean cases at all. In one case I had we took a cupful of pieces of shrapnel from the man's leg. The bone was all shattered, and the wound very septic. Another man's leg was in the shape of a corkscrew when he was brought in. It was fractured, and had been twisted about so much on the journey. Both his feet were dropping off with gangrene, and he had a big gangrenous patch on his back. He lived about six weeks, and seemed quite hopeful of pulling through."

Miss Pell was a member of Lady Ralph Paget's party.

The *Times* quotes extracts from the letters of two English nurses serving in France. One writes from Neuilly :—

"It was a truly exciting night we had last night. I was awakened about 2 a.m.—bang! bang! bang! Thought a motor-car was making an appalling row and was just going off to sleep again when I heard someone outside say, 'We're all to get up and dress.' So then I thought it might be as well to see what was happening. I slipped into my dressing gown and put my head outside to find everyone greatly excited and the news that it was Zeppelins. They seemed to have gone; so after five minutes I went back to bed.

"A few minutes later someone rushed along and said, 'Come and see the Zeppelin being shot at.' The banging had commenced again. I went to Sister —'s room and saw the most marvellous sight I have ever seen. It was a gorgeous starry night and three huge searchlights were concentrated on a silver cigar gleaming against the stars. It was perfectly stationary and seemed very contemptuous of the shrapnel that was firing at it; but after the first three shots the French were getting the range and the Zeppelin moved out of the searchlights, and only just in time, as the last shot as near as possible got the tail end of it. I wish they had got it.

"I've never seen anything so extraordinary.

A peaceful, clear, cold starry night—a huge Zeppelin with three powerful searchlights on it, and small round gold red balls screaming through the air trying to hit it. Happily the Zeppelins did not do much damage, and I only saw one of them. I believe there were two, and quite a lot of French aeroplanes up after them; but worse luck! they escaped. The 'Zepp' looked a most beautiful object, gleaming silver in the searchlight. I wasn't in the least bit frightened—only intensely interested. It was funny to think afterwards that they were firing bang over our heads, and the shrapnel shells looked beautiful as they came whizzing over and onwards."

*The American Journal of Nursing* is very straight on the amateur nursing of the sick and wounded question, and says: "Ever since war broke out in Europe, we have been hearing in various ways criticisms of the kind of amateur nursing being given to soldiers especially in the English Army. . . . This giving recognition to untrained nurses, not only in England, but in other countries in Europe, is attracting attention outside of the nursing profession. Joseph Edgar Chamberlain, writing in the *New York Evening Mail*, and commenting on the situation, says: 'In another respect than the essential barbarity of some of its military methods, the present war is likely to turn the wheels of progress backward. It has already seen a considerable retrogression in nursing methods, through the intrusion of many untrained and unfit women into the camps and hospitals; and unless the tendency is checked the immense gain in camp nursing which was effected by Florence Nightingale in the Crimean War may be entirely lost to the world.'"

It is an ill wind that blows no one any good and ever practical, the American nursing world means to take warning by our mistakes. The American Red Cross Nursing Department is finely organized under the supervision of a trained nurse, who has at her command a corps of 6,000 thoroughly trained nurses, enrolled and eligible for active service, and we note that the Editor of the *American Journal of Nursing*, in referring to our disorganization says: "On account of this situation, we want to make a special appeal to the whole nursing body in our own country for the developing of our organization life, for the promoting of State Registration, which gives the nurses in America a legal status and for the strengthening of our relation with the American Red Cross, that in case of war involving our own country there may be no question of the kind of nursing service that shall be given to the fathers, brothers, husbands, and sons of our own people. . . . With the lesson of this amateur nursing condition in the warring countries before us, efforts should be constantly expended to prevent the possibility of such a situation ever arising in our own country and at no time, no matter how peaceful the outlook, must we relax the vigilance that will make the development of such conditions possible."

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