

looking for wounded as if there wasn't such a thing as a German shell in the world."

The sergeant added: "I've got my bit of shrapnel packed away—the one that knocked me out—and I'm taking it home with me for my wife to keep." Note that, souvenir hunters.

A comment of the writer is that, "though the work is on so large a scale, it is free from the mistakes and muddling that characterised the South African war."

One chapter is devoted to "Nurse," and we read that the staff of trained nurses has been practically sufficient for the hospitals in France. "But these base hospitals, retaining only the worst cases—and these only as long as they must, for the sake of others following on from the firing line—need the very best of surgical and medical aid, and the most highly trained nursing service that can be obtained. . . . The majority of the Voluntary Aid women workers are retained in England. . . . the nurses in the base hospitals know their work, and would have little patience with those who do not. . . . Every case is a very serious one. . . . In matters where a slip would mean death there is no room for the beginner."

AT HOME.

In Part II, arranged under the heading "At Home," the story of the foundation of the Red Cross Society is told. The work of the Society is intended to be supplementary to that furnished by the medical departments of the Navy and Army, and it is the official channel through which voluntary offers of assistance are made. "It is part of the work of the Red Cross Society in time of peace to ascertain and tabulate the extent and nature of the voluntary aid which can be depended on, or expected." Unfortunately, in regard to trained nurses this rule was not observed. There was no Roll of Nurses ready to be called up when war broke out, with the result that the headquarters at Devonshire House were bombarded by nurses of all kinds and conditions when war broke out concerning whom information should have been ascertained and tabulated in time of peace by the Executive Committee "consisting mainly of eminent surgeons and business men." Had the Committee included some experienced trained nurses they would have realized the necessity of such organization.

The excellent work done in putting anxious relatives in touch with missing soldiers, and in arranging for others to visit those lying wounded in the hospitals in France is well described.

The chapters on the Voluntary Aid Detachments and their mobilization prove that the contention that the class of cases which they have been called upon to care for is limited to convalescent cases is not correct.

We read that the Voluntary Aid Service was organised so as to deal "not only with the influx of Belgian refugees, but with the thousands of British troops who came wounded from the French battlefields," and concerning the mobilization of the V.A.D., that "In the late hours of

Tuesday, October 13th, a telegram was despatched from headquarters: 'Mobilize all your hospitals at once. Notify names of places, stations and numbers of beds available at each to Transport Officer, Folkestone Harbour. Large number of wounded arrive to-night.' By midday of the next day three thousand wounded Belgians were in bed in the hospitals mobilized and prepared by the Voluntary Aid Detachments."

Of the zeal of the members for patients there can be no question. In one village in the early days of the war it is reported that the "competition for patients was so great that civilians went about in fear lest they should be attacked by dizziness in the streets and torn to pieces by rival detachments fighting for their care!"

The work done by the Red Cross Society in many directions is of the greatest possible value, and when the nursing profession is given full responsibility for organizing its nursing section, that branch will equal, if it does not excel other departments in efficiency.

Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 24, Bedford Street, Strand, W.C., have just published, as a very attractive booklet, price 1s., the Story of a Red Cross Flag. "In Hoc Vince," originally contributed by Mrs. Florence L. Barclay, to "King Albert's Book," including the final sentences on the symbolism of the story omitted when first published. The dedication is to His Majesty the King of the Belgians.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONGRESS.

An International Congress of Women has been arranged to take place at The Hague on April 28th, 29th and 30th. The appeal has come from the women of the Netherlands, who have called together the women of all other nations so that they may have the opportunity of making "some constructive contribution towards the solution of problems arising out of the present War and the peace settlement which is to follow." The President of the Dutch Executive Committee is Dr. Aletta Jacobs, the first woman doctor in Holland. In answer to the appeal a meeting was called in London, and so great was the sympathy expressed that a British Committee was immediately formed. This Committee has its headquarters at Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, S.W., Miss Chrystal Macmillan is acting as Hon. Secretary. Among the many sympathisers and donators in this country may be noted Lady Courtney, Lady Henry Somerset, Lady Ottoline Morrell, Lady Barclay, Lady Horsley, Miss Susan Lawrence, L.C.C., Olive Schreiner, Councillor Margaret Ashton, Miss Mary Macarthur. The preliminary programme of the Congress is now issued, and therein resolutions are incorporated emphasising women's responsibility for the prevention of war and the necessity for women's co-operation in political issues.

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