

ice-bag on the abdomen, and *hot* drinks. In spite of a recurrence of hæmorrhage several times he is now getting better. The patients are well and kindly treated, and though the infirmières have long hours and often look tired, there is never any rush of work, and I am sure the atmosphere of quiet and comfort is most soothing to the patients." We also are sure of it. See how an animal creeps away to be alone when sick. The less fuss in a sick room the better. We will remember an old Sister at Bart's expressing the opinion upwards of thirty years ago that an abdominal patient "was being nursed to death—special room, two special nurses, staff nurse, Sister, surgeon, resident, fuss, fuss, fuss. I should like to shut 'em all hout and give 'er a chance." That was in the early days of ovariectomy. Now we know how wise that old Sister was. We fuss over such cases no longer.

A writer in *Pressé Medicale* states that:—"Experience had convinced him that the constant application of an ice bag to the abdomen answers all the purposes of cold baths while it leaves the patient in peace. The abdomen is covered with a thick layer of talcum powder, then a thin flannel. Over this is placed a large bag of ice, not filled full on account of the weight, and with the air carefully expelled, so that it will be limp and fit to the surface below. This is held in place by a folded sheet, as a bandage is apt to roll up and slip. If the skin looks purple anywhere, the ice is suspended for a few hours. The bag does not need filling oftener than once in two hours and one-half. The patient drinks as much as possible up to four or five litres. This includes boiled milk, flavoured with tea, coffee or alcohol. After each cup the mouth is rinsed with an alkaline solution and a mouthful is swallowed. Equal parts of glycerine and Vichy water are used to cleanse the gums and pharynx and a few drops of camphorated oil are placed in each nostril."

Owing to the rush of untrained women posing as nurses to Belgium and France, the Governments of these countries fear that many spies got through, and have been responsible for conveying information of value to the enemy. They are anxious, therefore, that the utmost care shall be exercised by those selecting nurses. A Sister writes from France: "I am glad to belong to an all-British Corps, and that no foreigners, even from neutral countries have been permitted to join us. The doctors here are most emphatic upon this point, and think it has been very unwise upon the part of committees in England to send foreigners (often because they speak French) to nurse in France, and they greatly resent all and sundry rushing about near the trenches on 'joy rides.' Now we have the utmost difficulty in moving from place to place, and rightly so. The French doctors argue that so long as men from neutral countries don't fight for them they have no wish for their women

folk to come and nurse them—or spy upon them, as the case may be."

We hear great praise of the Australian Hospital at Wimereux. One General in inspecting it said it was waste of time, as everything was so clean and in perfect order—"you could eat your meals off the floor." The hospital takes 200 patients, and tents have been placed in the grounds in preparation for an increase of wounded. A friend of the nurses there writes: "It is aggravating to think that most of the men in the Australian unit get much more pay and much less work than the Sisters do. Even the dispenser's assistant who is doing what any nurse could do, gets much more than the highly skilled certificated nurses. Could not this be brought to the notice of Lady Dudley, the Lady Superintendent, who has a lovely little villa close by?"

We hear how much the beautiful Rest Home for Nurses run by Lady Gifford at Hardelot is appreciated by tired nurses, and there is a room set apart for Australian nurses where they are most hospitably entertained—breakfast in bed being a luxury keenly enjoyed.

Miss Nora Fletcher, Principal Matron of the British Red Cross nurses in France, who has been in England for a short time, returned to her post last Tuesday. She appears to be much appreciated and to have won golden opinions from the Sisters and nurses whom she supervises.

A cheque for £2,000 has been received by the chairman of the Executive Committee of the Canadian Red Cross organisation from Mr. A. D. Miles, President of the Canadian Copper Co., of Ontario. This generous donation will be expended in aid of the scheme of the St. John Ambulance Association, which is endeavouring to send to Europe a number of qualified Canadian nurses who have had three years' experience in hospitals and the services of whom are urgently required at the front at the present time. By means of this munificent subscription no less than twenty more trained nurses will be sent from Canada at an early date.

Some of the women teachers in the London County Council schools have caught the war fever and are anxious to volunteer for War Service—of course, as nurses. Our advice to such teachers is to stay and do the work in which they are trained and efficient, and not to swell the Army of the untrained who just now are clamouring for hospital training.

RELIEF FUND FOR WAR NURSES.

The total subscriptions to the Queen Alexandra Relief Fund for War Nurses received to and including Tuesday, the 20th inst., exceeded £8,500; during the past week the principal contributors have been the Prudential Assurance Company £210 and the London City and Midland Bank £105.

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