

hearted women from neutral countries are also giving service, as one Canadian sister said to us, "I do like to feel we are in this tussle and are really helping in this struggle for liberty—after all, neutral nurses are *not* the real thing, their own men are all safe at home."

As the official organs of the National Associations of Nurses come to us over seas month by month, it is apparent how greatly trained nurses appreciate serving the sick and wounded in this War. All contain letters from nurses on active service, from which we gain very interesting glimpses of their work and lives.

Thus Miss Helen Aukett writes from Alexandria to the *Nursing Journal of India* :—

"We are having an interesting time here in Alexandria. The hospital is being gradually got ready for expected patients. 'A' Section of 100 beds and 'E' Section of 40 look very fine; the latter is to be increased, if necessary. We are all working hard to have everything in readiness. Last Sunday, four of us got leave for two days—so off we went to Cairo. It was simply delightful, such a jolly trip. We saw the Pyramids and Sphinx, inside and out, by moonlight and in the day. It was fun riding round on a camel, but my beast played me a nasty trick, for it ran off with me away over the sand. How it went. My hat fell off; I gripped on as hard as I could; still on it went past the Sphinx. Fortunately, an Arab ahead saw us coming and he stopped the beast with outstretched arms. I have since learned how to converse with a camel—soft and low to stop it, and loudly to make it go. The Australians, of Mena Camp, have to march daily in the desert for ten or twelve miles; we met different companies and received loud cheers! I did not much like the inside of the Pyramids; you enter and the thought strikes you, 'shall I ever return,' for the way is so narrow and you feel so closely surrounded by great rocks, that it is a natural thought. The ground beneath your feet is so slippery—worn by the passing of thousands—that it is quite a difficult matter to keep one's footing. We arrived after much slipping and scuttling at the Queen's Room, a place composed of huge pieces of alabaster, where we were glad to sit and rest. The return journey was most trying, and once I lost my footing entirely and went slipping back, greatly to the annoyance of the guide, who had to help push me up again. I could not help seeing the funny side of it, and laughed so much, that at last all the others joined in and the guide said, 'Pyramid no laugh like this before.' We were pleased to reach the outside of the place. The guide was quite an interesting man, very well educated, only he mixed his English. He had been to India; he had a fine face, and was cleanly dressed in a silk gown.

"We went to Heliopolis near Cairo, where the Australians have another camp. The Palace Hotel has been turned into a large hospital of 1,000 beds. We went over it; everything was so nice. They have sent 80 doctors and 160 nurses

from Australia, and all equipment. The gardens in Alexandria are lovely, mostly English flowers plus the Indian species. Such roses, huge bunches of deep crimson buds for one piastre (2½d.); their scent is perfect. The violets are lovely, but the Arabs have a sly trick of bunching them and then encircling them with scented geranium leaves, so all their own perfume is lost. There is an artful old Arab in a side stall who lets you snuff and snuff, but when you scorn the geranium lot, he brings out a paper bag most carefully pinned, and assures you 'these are for the military,' and then he produces the real stuff; such gems. He enjoys the joke and chuckles away. There is a small Zoo here, mostly Indian animals and birds, but it is so badly kept and the odour is such it is necessary to view the specimens with one's handkerchief to one's nose. It is time to conclude this letter."

A Canadian nurse, writing of work at Boulogne in the *Canadian Nurse*, says :—

"... The hospital is entirely enteric here... and is rapidly filling up. The ward in which I have been working had the doubtful distinction of losing the first patient who had been inoculated. About five minutes later one who had also been inoculated died in another ward. The Medical Officer in our ward puts some of the cases on Iodine treatment. They seem to have a shorter course and the tongues are more moist than the others... The compound is really wonderful, and is 'mentioned in despatches.' They have brought all the bathing huts from the beach and placed them in rows in the enclosure. They have about one hundred and fifty patients, four Sisters and twelve orderlies. The convalescent enterics, able to walk, and all contagious cases, are sent out there. When it is raining the Sisters don rubber boots, rain-coats, and sou'-westers and quite enjoy it. Their only objection is the officers. They usually have about eight, and you can imagine the trouble getting trays for them. It is quite annoying to start out with a tempting tray and half-way to the hut meet a gale from the sea which turns over a jug of cocoa! I have not been out there, but our division overlooks it, and they have a few worries!

"The ranks of the English Sisters are quite distinct, and there is a great deal of feeling between them. I don't as yet know the fine distinctions, excepting that the Q.A.I.M.N.S. wear red capes and are the most important. Then there are the Q.A.I.M.N.S. Reserve, and C.H.R. (Civil Hospital Reserve), and Territorials, and one wears a decoration on one corner of her cape and one on another. Unless you are a Q.A. you never wear an all-red (hideous) cape. (We think it very picturesque.—Ed.) The others wear a minister's grey with a red border.

"They are all very agreeable to work with, and have been exceedingly nice and kind to me."

We hope all our overseas Sisters helping to nurse our sick and wounded have met with kind-

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