

### NURSING TYPHUS IN SERBIA.

Miss F. A. Fry, who went out to Serbia in October as Matron of the contingent of nurses taken out by Lady Paget, has recently returned home after a varied and interesting experience. At first she organised the nursing in the hospital at Skopje (Uskub) in a tobacco factory consisting of three blocks, one surgical, one medical, and one convalescent, with three floors in each, each floor having two hundred beds. Here she superintended the theatre under the English Red Cross doctors, as the Red Cross in this country had sent out 6 doctors and 12 orderlies. They had only taken their field equipment, as they had expected to go to the Front; but at that time the Serbian authorities would not allow them to do so.

The nursing staff relied for assistance on Serbian ladies and Austrian prisoners, many of whom made good orderlies. All sorts of diseases were rife, and, in the hospital, cases broke out of small-pox, typhus, diphtheria, enteric, and scarlet fever.

When the need arose for the care of 200 typhus cases in a big barracks taken over by the British Red Cross

up in the mountains, Miss Fry obtained permission to transfer from service under the Serbian Relief Fund to that of the Red Cross. She was the only Englishwoman there, and with the two English doctors and four orderlies, who were admirable men, ran the hospital. They appealed to the military authorities for the services of 40 to 60 Austrian prisoners as orderlies, and could not have done without them. Miss Fry states they were for the most part willing and excellent men, who expressed themselves as having no quarrel with the English. The head Austrian orderly, who spoke eight languages, was quite invaluable.

Typhus, Miss Fry emphasises, is a disease which needs good nursing and careful feeding, and unquestionably many Serbians died for the lack of them. The symptoms are headache, backache, and rising temperature. After the spots come out it rises very high, often up to 106°. There is great prostration, and often delirium. Complications, due to the fact that typhus is a very septic disease, are embolism, and sloughing off of extremities, such as noses and toes.

Treatment includes the application of ice-bags to the head (plenty of ice, was obtainable in the

mountains) and cold packs; also flushing out the kidneys with fluid to help to eliminate the poison. Fresh air is very essential, and it was difficult to induce Serbians to believe it. Eventually some of the windows were removed, and the patients thought they would be killed, but changed their minds when they at last realised the good effects of pure air.

In regard to personal precautions, Miss Fry, who certainly looks the picture of health, states that she took daily an antiseptic bath, and rubbed herself all over with petroleum. It was found that the lice which are generally supposed to be re-

sponsible for the disease would not come near petroleum.

The handsome decoration which is illustrated on this page was given to Miss Fry, with a beautifully illuminated diploma, expressing gratitude for her services, by the Serbian Red Cross Society, of which the King is patron. It is suspended from a white ribbon.

The hospital was handed over to Lady Wimborne's party of nurses.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller has just sent thirty-five million francs to Prince Alexis of Serbia, President of the Serbian Red Cross Society.



DECORATION GIVEN TO MISS FRY BY THE SERBIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

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