January 1, 1916

NURSING AND THE WAR.

Trained nurses going to France are required to give up the inside of a week to conform to the formalities before their Anglo-French certificates are in order, and their passports can be viséd, and a great expense and worry they find the system as in force. In Germany nurses are not only given passports but numbers. On this page will be seen a picture of German Sisters being photographed for their passports and numbers.

THE GREAT TREK,

More and more as the War goes on we are proving the mettle of which trained nurses are made, and it is found to ring true (as those who frostbite, clothes freezing upon them, short of food, and minus luggage, but in the end they arrived at the port of San Giovanni, and eventually were taken on board an Italian ship to Brindisi, and so came through Paris home.

No one who has passed through such an experience can ever forget it, and yet probably few would wish to have missed it. To have made the great adventure and have won through, to have got down to bed rock and seen life stripped of its veneer and subterfuges, to prove what good comrades both men and women can be when risking life, and facing death, together is to have tasted the salt of life.

The whole story of the work in Serbia is indeed one which thrills the imagination. From the



SISTERS IN GERMANY BEING PHOTOGRAPHED FOR PASSPORTS AND NUMBERS.

know them best have always had confidence it would). Indeed, there seems little that nurses will not do and dare should circumstances demand it.

The latest instance is the great trek carried out in the retreat from Serbia, in company with doctors, soldiers, refugees and Austrian prisoners, extending over a period of many weeks, and including a journey full of adventure and hardship across precipitous mountains covered with snow and ice, sometimes up to the waist in snow, sleeping in the open, at first in mud and slush, later by camp fires in the snow, often drenched and sodden with rain, their inadequate boots cut off their feet, some of them suffering from time of the typhus epidemic, through the trying period of inaction when the hospitals were waiting for the expected influx of wounded, during the great rush which followed the fighting, the evacuation of the towns, and with them the hospitals, and finally the story of the great retreat is one which can now be told only in part, gathered up from members of units who have arrived home, and who relate their adventures with the utmost modesty. Some day we hope the whole story will be related by some one with the knowledge, discernment, and literary ability to do it justice, for we doubt if ever the powers of endurance of nurses have been tested more severely.



