

It was a wonderful day for the Sisters, who all felt they had been greatly honoured, for whatever they have done during their four years' service has been to them a privilege, as the world owes so much to the heroic and valiant men of France. The Sisters of the F.F.N.C. will ever carry with them a memory of their "Poilus"; they stand for so many virtues, patient endurance, courage and perseverance, and their "moral" during the four years of terrible war has never wavered, so that the Sisters may well be proud to have earned the "Poilus'" decoration.

It is interesting that an American, a Canadian, and two Englishwomen are so closely associated together in this work of mercy.

Sister Hilda Gill, who is the fifth member of the Unit, received the Croix de Guerre in 1917, for courage under fire when she went to the aid of her co-league, Sister M. Jaffray, who was injured by a bomb, and who was also subsequently decorated. This Unit has been greatly distinguished by the French authorities in being awarded six Croix de Guerre.

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING warmly congratulates the Sisters on their well-deserved honours.

A FIFTH CHRISTMAS IN FRANCE.

Some of the Sisters have celebrated a fifth Christmas in France—the last, to their joy and sorrow—a time to look back to with deep and sincere satisfaction. They have spent such a useful time. Some of them are still "trekking" and living in the wilds. "Yesterday," writes one, "we went into a neighbouring town and we came across one of the 'Cantines Britannique' of the Comité de Londres, who were just fixing themselves in. What a boon they are to our 'Poilus.' These Cantines have done wonderful work, and are specially useful now, with so many troops on the road, coming and going."

Sister writes: "I pass through the grounds of this hospital each day; sometimes I wish to pass another way, as each time I pass there are one or two coffins out in the courtyard covered with a white sheet, and the same good priest in his white robe and black cap saying the Mass; even when it pours with rain he is there. Sometimes there are mourners, more often not. Oh! it's a sad sight. The dead are often the *repatriés* who have taken ill en route and died in the tents erected for the people

who do not pass the medical visit. One sees very sad sights, and I regret so much I have not warm clothing to give them. It's the first time I have seen the Mass for the dead said outside in the grounds, but the chapel has been destroyed."

Naturally the Sisters are gratified to hear that the French Ministry propose to recognise their services, but the feeling of the true nurse is expressed in the following words: "To tell you the truth, one has such deep joy and satisfaction in feeling that one has been able and privileged to help these brave fellows in the smallest degree to bear their sufferings that no other reward or recognition can be greater, ever, than the 'Merci, de vos bons soins,' of our Poilus."

That is our feeling on this question of the honours.

NURSING AND THE WAR.

The King has been pleased to institute a Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire to date from the creation of the Order—*i.e.*, June 4th, 1917.

The following women are eligible for the Order:—

All members of the Naval, Army, Dominions, or Overseas Nursing Services, or officials of the Women's Royal Naval Service, Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps, or the Women's Royal Air Force, and such commandants of the Women's Legion or similar organisations as are under contract with, or employed by, the Admiralty, War Office, or Air Ministry.

The ribbon of the Military Division will be distinguished by a vertical red strip in the centre of the existing ribbon.

SCOTTISH NURSES IN LONDON.

A hostel has been opened for Scottish nurses and V.A.D.s on active service at 82, Cadogan Square, Belgravia, London, S.W. 1, kindly lent by the Dowager Lady Renshaw.

A NEW YEAR THOUGHT.

While we work, there's a chance for giving;
While we give, life's worth the living;
While we live, there's room for growing;
While we grow, there's time for sowing.
Watchful care and faithful keeping—
When we've sown, there's hope for reaping.

Ruth Royce.



MISS AGNES LOUISE WARNER,
INFIRMIÈRE MAJOR, F.F.N.C.
"A fait l'admiration de tous."

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