

valuable services rendered in connection with the establishment, maintenance, and administration of hospitals.

Major Terrell, in the House of Commons, on February 1st, asked the Financial Secretary to the War Office what pay and allowances have been paid to sisters and nurses of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Reserve who have served or who are serving with the British forces at Salonika; whether, in or about February, 1916, their allowances were reduced, in breach of the contracts under which they were serving; and whether a number of sisters and nurses who have no private means have been obliged to resign, owing to their inability to meet their necessary expenditure on the pay and allowances given them?

Mr. Forster replied: The pay and allowances of these nurses are as follows: Sisters, £50 to £60 per annum; nurses, £40 to £45 per annum. Since November 1st, 1916, they have received an addition of £20 a year, if under engagement to serve as long as required. They also receive board and lodging allowance, 25s. a week; uniform allowance, £9 a year; field allowance, 3s. a day, together with accommodation, fuel and light. For some time, and by error, a money allowance in lieu of lodging, fuel and light, was paid to them, in addition to the provision of lodging, fuel and light in kind. They were not entitled to it, and it was stopped from February 1st, 1916.

The award of the Croix de Guerre in France is a charming and touching ceremony. The General gives the Salute, kissing the recipient after he has pinned on the breast the beautiful medal and ribbon. We see in the picture (page 91) Sister Hilda Gill, R.N.S., of the French Flag Nursing Corps, receiving the Salute "somewhere in France," after an act of heroism during bombardment, when she ran great risk in helping a fellow Sister—Madeleine Jaffray—who was seriously wounded, and was also decorated with the coveted Croix de Guerre.

It is quite the custom for nurses to be instructed in the giving of anæsthetics in the United States, but so far it has been disapproved by the medical faculty in this country. It interested us, therefore, to be informed recently by a Sister working with the British Expeditionary Force, that a course of instruction is now in force in France. "In a weak moment," she writes, "when the lists for 'Candidates for Training in the Giving of Anæsthetics' came out, I put my name down never dreaming what it entailed. We were all dismayed on arriving here, when we were told that if considered suitable at the end of two months' training we should then be sent up to C.C. Stations for one month and then be branded as anæsthetists, and not be allowed to do any more nursing! We have, therefore, decided to go through the training, and when we return to

nursing we shall have the experience to help in case of emergency."

## OUR ROLL OF HONOUR.

In the Officers' Casualty Lists published on February 4th-6th, the following notices appear:—

### NURSING SERVICE.

#### ACCIDENTALLY DROWNED.

Compton, Sister F. D., Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.  
Tindall, Sister F., Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.  
Welford, Sister A., Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.  
Faithfull, Miss F. M., V.A.D.

#### DROWNED.

Roberts, Staff Nurse M. D., Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.  
Ball, Miss C., V.A.D.  
Brown, Miss W. M., V.A.D.  
Bytheway, Miss G., V.A.D.  
Duncanson, Miss V., V.A.D.  
Hawley, Miss N., Special Military Probationer.  
Midwood, Miss L., V.A.D.  
Rogers, Miss H., V.A.D.

The most distressing tragedy of these deaths emphasises the risks continually taken, with the utmost courage and coolness, by the members of the various Nursing Services, who well know that they go at the peril of their lives, whether on hospital ships or on transports in the seas sown with mines and infested with submarines. Nevertheless, not a Sister but thinks it an honour to brave the peril to place her skilled help at the service of our sick and wounded men, and when death confronts her she meets it with unflinching courage.

The two ships sunk in the Eastern Mediterranean were the transport *Aragon*, which was torpedoed and the *Osmanieh*, which was sunk by a mine the following day on the same spot. There were 40 or 50 Sisters on the *Aragon*, who were all saved, Captain Bateman giving the order, "Women first." In fifteen minutes the transport had disappeared. Many of the men on board were picked up by the destroyer accompanying her only to be torpedoed once again. One survivor relates how four nurses pulled him over the side of the trawler to which they had been transferred from the life-boat, but for their help he would have fallen back into the water.

The loss of life amongst the nurses occurred on the following day, when the *Osmanieh* was mined. All the nurses—forty to fifty—were thrown into the water, and eight of them, unhappily, were drowned. As the disaster occurred near to land they were taken to the mortuary of a hospital on shore, where we may be sure that every honour and respect which could be accorded them was paid to them.

The members of the nursing profession to whose traditions they were faithful unto death will assuredly ever honour their memory and strive to follow their example.

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