

## News from the States.

DR. ANITA M'GEE.

An interesting personality in the United States at the present time is Dr. Anita Newcomb M'Gee, the Director of the Hospital Corps of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The *New York Tribune* publishes the following interesting account of an interview with this lady:—

"An interview was had yesterday afternoon with Dr. Anita Newcomb M'Gee, vice-president-general of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution. She is here in the interest of the hospital nurses, and to aid in sending them where they are needed.

Part of the day yesterday was spent in visiting the *Relief*, as she wished to see the nurses and learn what was being done there. She presented to the ship a large ice-filter sent by the Cleveland Daughters of the American Revolution. She also made arrangements for sending a large number of folding rubber bath tubs to be used in Porto Rico. She said that Mayor Torney expressed his appreciation of, and admiration for, the nurses on board, and declared that they had made an admirable record.

She added that the Trained Nurse Maintenance Auxillary of the Red Cross Relief Committee will select from the Red Cross such nurses as are up to the standard. These nurses will be accepted by the Government. On account of the fund which this society has at its disposal, these nurses will most likely be sent to tent hospitals and similar places, where the Government has been unable to provide for their board.

In regard to the hospital work under the Government's supervision she gave her opinion as follows:—

"The Surgeon-General of the Army, Major Sternberg, at the head of the hospital service, feels keenly his responsibility to the Government. He has kept in the van of his profession, and demands for his sick and wounded the most skilled care and attention that he can command. He knows that the exacting requirements of modern hospital practice and surgery have wrought such radical changes, within even the last few years, that a nurse is practically useless unless trained in the modern schools. He is not trying to keep women out of the service; on the contrary, he is trying to bring into it the most skilful.

He cannot accept all applicants en masse; they must qualify as individuals. He credits each applicant to her order or organization, and it reaps the full benefit of service rendered, besides obtaining official recognition."

DR. M'GEE'S WORK.

No one among the patriotic orders of the country has taken a more prominent position and been more highly honoured in the present crisis than the Daughters of the American Revolution. In

this society a hospital corps has been formed in which all applications from women for hospital positions in the Army or Navy are referred by the surgeons-general. At the head of this corps, as director, stands Anita Newcomb M'Gee, M.D., one of the vice-presidents of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Dr. M'Gee was selected for this place by the Surgeon General of the Army because of her special fitness by training and experience for hospital work. She is a native of Washington, having been born in that city in 1864, and is the daughter of Professor Simon Newcomb, LL.D., Ph.D., United States Navy, her mother being Mary C. Hassler, daughter of Dr. C. A. Hassler, also of the United States Navy. Miss Newcomb received her early education in private schools of her native city, followed by three years, in travel abroad, which included a special course at Newnham College, Cambridge, England; University of Geneva, Switzerland, with study of French and German on the Continent. Returning to this country in 1886, she began the study of history and genealogy, contributing to several works, including "Appleton's American Biographical Dictionary." After her marriage her studies were extended to sociology, and especially to the communistic societies of the United States, concerning which she is recognised as a leading authority.

She began study for the medical profession in 1889 in Columbia University, and after receiving three courses of lectures and passing all examinations with honor, the degree of M.D. was conferred upon her by this institution in 1892. Dr. M'Gee won the first prize in dermatology and stood second in clinical medicine at her examination. In 1893 she took a special post-graduate course in gynaecology at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Thus equipped Dr. M'Gee began practice in Washington, and has attained much success, being one of the most popular practitioners of the city. She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and was one of the few women who read papers before that body at its meeting in Detroit in 1897.

Socially, Dr. M'Gee is a charming woman, possessed of great personal magnetism, vivacity and gift of language. Her tact and administrative capacity have been displayed in the congresses of the Daughters of the American Revolution, in which organization she has been a leader, and is commonly regarded as the cleverest and most forcible speaker in the debates."

GENERAL STERNBERG has stated that unjust attacks have been made upon him, with regard to the position he has taken up with reference to sending women nurses with the army in the field.

Women nurses are now employed in the general hospitals, where they are giving great satisfaction, but with an army in the field, mobilized for active operation, such nurses, the

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