

WITH THE RED CROSS AT FLEET.

In our detachment of the V.A.D. of the B.R.C. Society there was great excitement when we heard that we were to mobilise with other detachments and arrange a hospital for the wounded in the battle which was to take place near Aldershot on July 25. On the 24th many of us were at the Pinewood Hall (given into the charge of the Eversley and Fleet detachments, each of which was to be responsible for twenty beds) at 2.30.

When we arrived there was indeed a scene of chaos—bedsteads in pieces, bundles of bedding, and mattresses tied up lying scattered in all directions. But in a wonderfully short space of time our twenty beds were set up in their places, a double row in one half of the hall, with packing case or box, containing towels and shirt, doing duty beside each bed as a locker. A doctor's stand was also provided, and at the door end of the hall was a long table on tressels for bandages. When all this was arranged our preparatory work was finished.

On the 25th we got into our uniform (in our case white dresses, Red Cross aprons, caps, and brassard), and were at our posts at 12 o'clock, when we helped to arrange the stores on the table, padded rough splints with tow, and saw that our beds were all quite correctly made with mackintosh and draw sheet—the top blanket and sheet rolled to the foot of the bed, and the receiving blanket over all. At one o'clock we had a light luncheon of sandwiches and lemonade, provided by a member of the V.A.D., and were then "ready, aye ready."

Meanwhile the Eversley and Yatley detachment had arrived, and we admired the businesslike way in which they set to work, and got their beds in order. Their uniform dress was grey, so there was no danger of confusion as to detachments.

As usually happens on such occasions, the wounded, who were expected soon after one o'clock, did not come until long after that time. But we had food for excitement in visits from various officials, who asked questions about the detachment, visited the kitchen, and inspected the beds and stores.

At 2.30 the first batch of wounded began to arrive, gently carried in on stretchers by men of the B.R.C. It was a great moment for us when we read on labels attached to each the case they were in. We attended to them to the best of our ability, and then tried to pass away the time for them (buns and lemonade were a help) until their turn came to be carried off to the base hospital and we received another batch. So the hours passed until we were told that there were no more wounded to come, when, after a hasty but welcome cup of tea, arranged by another member of the V.A.D., we hurried down to the station, where a base scene was in progress. The special train of trucks was on a siding. Many wounded were already slung in their stretchers in these trucks, and others were being placed there. All who could walk were in ordinary carriages. By the side of the line in the station yard was a hospital

tent under the Hartley Wintney and Elvetham Division of the V.A.D. Here the beds were chiefly pallets of straw on stretchers raised from the ground on bricks, pillows being improvised from rolls of straw, or anything handy which would serve.

All was most practical and won our admiration, but there was not much time to inspect—the train began to move! It was gently brought from the siding to the platform, and here ladies of the place regaled the wounded with refreshments, and at last off it went to Basingstoke (each truck or carriage carrying a Red Cross Nurse in charge) amid the cheers of wounded and bystanders. Our busy day was done after the hospital had been put straight, and we returned to our homes with new experience and knowledge, but with also, perhaps, a new heartache as we realised a tiny bit more of what war must mean, and with the prayer that our country may never be devastated by a foreign foe.

E. P. C.

THE EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF NURSING.

The Bulletin on the Educational Status of Nursing, by Miss M. Adelaide Nutting, Director of the Department of Nursing and Health at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, and published by the United States Bureau of Education, should be studied by all interested in this important question, for it is a brilliant survey of the situation. In introducing it Miss Nutting points out that "although there have been no radical changes in methods of education in nursing during the past five years, there are yet substantial evidences of progress to record. Training Schools for Nurses throughout the country are steadily, even if slowly, effecting improvements in their work and conditions. The professional field of nursing is widening and embracing new and important activities, and offering new incentives to effort. Public interest in hospitals and training schools is growing, and an intelligent public opinion on nursing affairs is gradually forming. The education of nurses, long looked upon as a matter in which hospitals only were concerned, is now beginning to be seen as a matter in which the public also is deeply and necessarily concerned."

In connection with opposition experienced to the principle of State registration for nurses, Miss Nutting writes: "A somewhat careful study of the opposition which has been met both in this country and abroad, shows how largely commercial it has been and is in its nature and to what lengths the exploitation of pupil nurses has been carried. There could, indeed, be no possible rational objection urged against a procedure, the principle of which is recognised as sound in all other professions or vocations in which scientific knowledge and technical skill in definite degrees are essential for public safety."

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