

DESPATCHED TO THE FRONT.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION.

Six nurses were sent to Antwerp on Tuesday by St. John Ambulance Association. Their names are not available as we go to press, but Sister A. M. Harris, of the Registered Nurses' Society, was one of the party.

THE BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

During the week no more nurses have been sent out by the Red Cross Society, but it is hoped their 3rd unit will go shortly, and then more to follow. Nurses sent abroad by the Society will be drafted as soon as possible to places where they are most urgently needed.

WOMEN'S HOSPITAL CORPS—FRENCH RED CROSS.

On Thursday, September 10th, two days earlier than was announced, a party for Le Croix Rouge, left Victoria under the escort of Mme. de Longuéuil, *en route* for Paris, their ultimate destination being the Château of the Duchesse de la Mollé Houdencourt. The nurses were all in high spirits, and apparently eagerly looking forward to their new experience. Mme. de Longuéuil stood among them, an imposing figure, tall, upright and handsome. She wore a long blue military coat which reached to her heels, adorned with touches of scarlet and brass buttons, a cloth cap to correspond, and a knapsack slung over her shoulder. The effect was admirable, and she looked a most inspiring leader.

The train steamed out, leaving an impression of bright, eager faces and fluttering handkerchiefs.

Mme. de Thuy was a conspicuous figure amongst those assembled to wish the party Godspeed.

Those left on the platform, who from Anno Domini and other causes were ineligible for the coveted opportunity, turned back to the humdrum with a sigh in their heart, which got no further, we hope, for there on the platform, in a confused and miserable heap, was a quantity of baggage belonging to miserable refugees. Who could be discontented in the face of so much suffering? Courage, *mes amis*, we all can help.

A postcard from Dieppe from one of the Croix Rouge has been received saying that they had had a glorious crossing, and were just about to dine before setting out to complete their journey.

At the present time, patriotism outweighs every other emotion, and it was an enthusiastic crowd that assembled at Victoria Station on September 16th to give a send off to the French Red Cross Women's Hospital Corps, *en route* for Paris. The distinguishing feature of the hospital they are on their way to equip is, that with the exception of four male orderlies, it consists entirely of women. Claridge's Hotel in the Champs Elysees has been fitted up for their purpose, and they will undertake its entire management. Six tons of baggage and hospital equipment were put on the train.

Dr. Garrett Anderson and Dr. Flora Murray are in command, with three other medical women. Three women orderlies in addition to those mentioned above and the following nurses completed the party: Miss Wicks, Miss Robellaz, Miss Bryan, Miss Cleavling, Miss Brown, Miss Pratt, Mrs. Lawrence and Miss Pearson.

The doctors and orderlies wore uniforms of an original and workmanlike appearance, which had the additional advantage of being very becoming. The material was of fawn coloured coating made with short well-cut skirts, and tunics furnished with deep buttoned pockets and bands. A close fitting bonnet without strings, covered with a flowing motor veil of the same shade. The small epaulettes of the doctors were scarlet, and of the orderlies white. Each had a white kit bag, with the red cross, slung over the shoulder, by white straps and the whole produced an admirable effect.

If a word of criticism may be offered from a nursing point of view—the effect was marred by the want of uniformity in the nurses' attire, and it seemed a pity, as the rest of the party were so smartly turned out, that a suitable uniform had not been provided for the nurses that would have harmonised with the whole. As it was they were at a disadvantage in point of appearance.

Miss Rose Ricketts of the Registered Nurses' Society, left for France on the 11th inst. She received a call from Mme. Jacques Cartier, who has fitted up her fine villa at Houlgate for the use of the wounded, and where her sister is at present working.

BRITISH FIELD HOSPITAL FOR BELGIUM.

News has come from Miss Theresa Bryan that the Field Hospital of which she has charge, and which went to Belgium last week, received the warmest and most enthusiastic welcome, and is arranged in one of the big hospital buildings in Antwerp, where it is of the greatest use at this juncture, as owing to the terrible battles close by the staff have been deluged with work since their arrival, and have wired urgently for more doctors and nurses to be sent, and the following went over on Tuesday, Mrs. Dalton, Miss Mitchell and Miss Tanner, three more started on Wednesday. The hospital is under the direct command of the Queen of the Belgians and of the Belgian Red Cross Society.

A good bit of criticism about "trousered nurses" has appeared in the press. To be quite accurate, four lady farmers form part of the unit of the Belgian Field Hospital, their dress of trousers, long covert coats, high riding boots, and hats certainly gives these ladies a masculine appearance. We learn that their duty will be to attend to the domestic work, such as cooking and washing, and not "snatching the wounded from the field of battle." No doubt they will discard the "master of foxhounds" costume when engaged at the wash tub.

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