

via Gotenberg and Stockholm. A very happy and earnest band of workers they appeared to be as we greeted them on the platform, longing to be of use to humanity, longing to take part in some degree in relieving the terrible suffering entailed by the war, the misery of which is heaped up day by day. No "swank," no fuss. The sound of the American accent is, in our ears, always euphonious. We are grateful for so many kind and encouraging words spoken with it during the past twenty toilsome years.

Time was short. We passed the time of day. "Happy to meet you," "Good luck and success," and "Goodbye," and then "Hope we meet you at San Francisco next year," and the train steamed out of the station for the North, many of the American nurses wearing English roses for the day. We waved them goodbye, and then wired Miss Breay, who was in Edinburgh, to greet them *en passant*.

On Saturday we received a note from Sister Helen, posted at Dundee, headed: "Just aboard the *Balder*," in which she writes:—

"Miss Breay met us, thanks to your thoughtfulness and kindness, with arms full of Edinburgh rock, which the nurses are now all enjoying. There was no time to see Edinburgh. . . . The brief glimpse of you and Miss Breay has been a gracious and grateful refreshment. Best wishes and warmest greetings."

The *Balder* had an enthusiastic send-off from the cheering crowd as she cast off her moorings in Dundee Harbour.

In a few days let us hope all these "lovely people" will be in Petrograd and so on to active duty.

By the by, we wonder why no member of the American Women's War Committee welcomed Miss Scott Hay and the Russian contingent of their compatriots to London, or bid them God-speed at the station on their mission to Russia? With Mrs. Whitelaw Reid at the American Embassy we feel sure some kindly recognition would have been forthcoming.

Major Patterson sailed on the *Red Cross* for Bordeaux on the 29th ult. to land the units for France. Those for Germany (and for Austria if possible) went by Rotterdam. A unit was sent to Servia straight from the United States, as that little country is greatly in need of all kinds of help, especially of surgical stores, clothes, and other comforts.

E. G. F.

Everyone is asking, "Did the Russians really pass through this country?" Time will show. The military authorities are discreetly reticent. One solution is that a telegram received, stating that "70,000 Russians had been despatched via Aberdeen," referred not, as was inferred, to the Army, but to the breakfast egg of commerce. We assume that, while not guaranteeing its accuracy, the Press Bureau has no objection to the publication of this item.

DESPATCHED TO THE FRONT.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION.

A HOSPITAL FOR ST. MALO.

Lady Macdonald, with two Nurses, Miss Richardson and Miss Cobb, left England on Saturday, 3rd, for St. Malo, by request of Colonel Couper. Others were to have gone with them, but at the last moment news came from St. Malo that the Nurses must bring their own bedding. This being impossible at the moment, the small advance party started first to ascertain if this order was correct. The rest of the party started on Wednesday, 7th, the names being as follows:—

Matron, Miss Richardson; Night Superintendent, Miss Coats; Theatre Sister, Miss Djuberg (X-rays and infectious diseases); and Nurses Downie and Skelton (massage and electricity); Sisters Leahy, Weir, Henderson, Sadler, Cooney; Staff Nurses Rutherford, Davies, Millington, Morty, Mason, Flanagan, McAdam, Conolly (massage), Newton, Fraser, Scally (massage).

IRISH HOSPITAL AT PAU.

The French Government have accepted the offer of the North Tyrone Ulster Volunteer Force Hospital for service at Pau. The St. John Ambulance Association have approved the scheme, and are giving assistance. The French Government will support the hospital when established at Pau, but the cost of equipment and transport will be found locally.

A party of nurses left Liverpool on Thursday for Pau to establish this base hospital there. Matron, Miss McCord; Night Sister, Miss Patrick; and Sisters Jameson, Collis, McFerra, Wright, Shimmen, Stevens, Sullivan, Johnson, and Jennings.

Dr. Newman Darling, with two assistant-surgeons and Miss Sinclair, will probably start on Saturday, 10th, from London for Pau.

They are taking £250 worth of instruments and surgical stores for a 50-bed hospital for three months, and are supplying the beds and bedding. The hospital is being financed by a North of Ireland committee under the presidency of the Duchess of Abercorn.

A BUREAU IN PARIS.

Mrs. H. E. Watson, who went to Paris to see about the possibility and advisability of establishing a bureau in Paris, where Nurses could be sent and then drafted on to different places in France where most needed, will return with her report at an early date.

HELP FOR INDIAN TROOPS.

The reason the expert sub-committee, formed with the concurrence of the India Office, have suggested that a hospital should be organised at Alexandria for sick and wounded Indian troops, is that the climate will be far more suitable for them, especially during the winter, than the damp and cold in England. We feel sure the

previous page

next page