

floating hospitals which can easily be moved about. Severe cases can have immediate attention in favourable circumstances.

The first barge is named "L'Île de France." It will accommodate forty wounded men and two surgeons. It is believed that it should make the journey from the front to Paris in less than three days. This scheme deserves every encouragement and will be widely extended.

The War Office has decided to spend £20,000 of the Canadian women's gift in the purchase of 40 motor ambulances, the balance of over £37,000 will be used by the Admiralty to build, equip and maintain a supplementary hospital of 100 beds at Haslar.

THE BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

An official statement has been issued of the work of the Paris branch of the Red Cross during the month of its existence. The branch has four hospitals in the French capital for the accommodation of wounded officers and men, with 300 beds in all. In the early part of September no motor ambulances were available, but thanks to the generosity of private owners and the courtesy of the French military authorities a convoy of limousines was sent out from Paris several times each week to bring back wounded, not only from the front but also those in isolated houses and auxiliary hospitals of the French Red Cross societies in outlying districts. Some 250 were brought in by this means.

Large quantities of food, medical and surgical supplies, clothing, and blankets have also been supplied by the branch. The ladies' working party, which has been at work since the declaration of war had made a very large number of shirts, pyjamas, bandages, and belts. All the British clergy of every denomination were organised into a band of almoners to visit the wounded in the various hospitals in Paris.

With the help of the British Red Cross Commissioners the branch is now organising an ambulance train on a much larger scale. Its hospital accommodation will be raised to 1,000 beds in Paris and neighbourhood, with full staff of doctors, dressers, nurses, and orderlies from England.

OXO.

The value of Oxo not only as a nutritious and delicious article of diet, but also as a valuable stimulant, in certain cases, is well known to nurses. The latest instance of its recuperative powers is the case of some of the exhausted survivors from the *Hogue* taken on board the *Lowestoft*, where steaming bowls of Oxo quickly picked up the majority and in the words of one of them "made new men" of them.

We know that some of the nurses proceeding on active service supplied themselves with the handy little cubes obtainable in sixpenny and shilling boxes, which just make one good sized cupful.

THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE ORATION.

A very successful meeting was held on Thursday, October 8th, in the Town Hall, Liverpool, when Miss Amy Hughes, president of the N.U.T.N., gave the Florence Nightingale Oration to a crowded audience.

The Lady Mayoress presided, and in the course of her remarks said that it was fitting that in the midst of a great war and of great trouble we should remember one who had remained a shining light to this generation, and to recall how she came through all her trials so victoriously. Miss Hughes spoke for nearly an hour, and was followed throughout with great interest and appreciation.

She said it was just sixty years ago this month that Miss Florence Nightingale started out upon her mission to the Crimea, and she took the various stages in her early life and pointed out how each one had its effect on her later life. From her mother she inherited a talent for organisation, and from her father a spirit of speculative inquiry, and as a child she felt that she was destined for some special calling.

The speaker showed how, in the face of great opposition, she organised and carried through her work in the Crimea with no conveniences and often not even bare necessities. When sitting up at night the rats were so numerous that she became an expert rat-catcher. Miss Hughes contrasted the nursing in the Crimea with that in South Africa; in the former Miss Nightingale went out with a staff of 38 nurses, which was eventually increased to 125, while in the Boer War there were 800 British nurses altogether. Miss Nightingale found discipline very difficult, and it gave some idea of the ways of nurses at that time when it was necessary to issue regulations strictly limiting the amount of spirituous liquor.

From the Crimea she came home imbued with the need for nursing reform and the speaker passed in review the various nursing movements which Miss Nightingale organised and in which she was interested. Miss Hughes also showed that thoroughness was characteristic of all Miss Nightingale's work; no detail was too small and nothing too much trouble, even in her later years when her health began to fail.

In conclusion, Miss Hughes said, "I think that this War has come to raise the nation to a sense of discipline. Our menfolk are giving up their pleasure and their sport and going forward to work for their country, and to face hardships and discipline which they had never heard of."

"If our men are learning the lesson of the War, don't you think we women, and especially we nurses, should learn our lesson of discipline and co-operation also, and may we not in this take our example from Miss Florence Nightingale also?"

Mrs. MacKenna proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Hughes for her most interesting speech, and also to the Lady Mayoress for her presence in the chair.

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