

It is announced that Lady Maud Wilbraham has been appointed Lady Superintendent of Queen Mary's Royal Hospital at Southend, "in recognition of her constant and valuable services at the St. John Ambulance Association." Some 150 wounded Belgian soldiers were admitted last week—men who had come from Namur, Liège, Mons and Antwerp, and those well enough to appear on the balconies received an enthusiastic welcome from the people of Southend.

## THE ENTENTE CORDIALE.

### THE FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

In the early days of the War thoroughly trained English nurses were offered by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick to various international friends in France, but she was assured that arrangements had been made for the care of the sick and wounded, "and every one was in their place." Alas! events have proved that a far greater strain has been put upon the military and municipal authorities, and the Croix Rouge in France than was anticipated, and week after week we have had in the press evidence of reliable eye-witnesses of the terrible sufferings of thousands of French soldiers before death released them on the stricken field, and during their transport to the base hospitals all over France. Who can remain unmoved, or forget their cry, "O mon Dieu, ayez pitié de moi," and not wish to relieve their suffering? No human heart.

Fortunately for France, the splendid international work quietly accomplished during many years past by the Entente Cordiale groups will, we hope, bear fruit. The French Minister for War has accepted the offer of help from workers for the Entente Cordiale, and has empowered a small committee to provide a staff of 300 English nurses to be attached to certain prescribed districts in France—it being expressly desired that the nurses shall be women of ripe experience and very reliable character, who will be able to teach and influence for good the *infirmières* with whom they will have to work, the committee were advised to consult Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, well known in France as Founder of the International Council of Nurses, and it has been agreed that the prime mover, Miss Grace Ellison, educated and brought up in France, a niece of Sir Thomas Barclay, the great internationalist, and author of that fine work, "Thirty Years in France," shall continue her mission in France, where she has come into personal relations with the wounded and their present needs, and place before the committee a report in connection with the suggested scheme.

We are of opinion that there may be a very useful, and self-sacrificing piece of international work to be done by our National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, and others, as the organisation suggests work in four local districts, seventy-five nurses under

a trained matron, divided into units of six in each district. We feel sure that many of the Leagues and Societies of nurses which form our National Council will wish to supply a unit, thus working in sympathetic groups, and that there are now many capable volunteers who might in the future take part in the work. We, however, deprecate any undue haste. As soon as a reliable report is to hand from France, we feel sure a band of devoted, thoroughly trained women will be forthcoming through a reliable and accredited source, in spite of difficult conditions and small pay.

The minimum qualification will be a certificate of three years' training.

Miss Grace Ellison left London for France on Thursday morning, accompanied by Dr. Dundas Grant, personally conducting the first two units, No. 1 in charge of Mrs. Dalrymple (active service South African War), including Miss Lawley and Miss Cole; and No. 2 unit, supplied by the Registered Nurses' Society, affiliated to the National Council of Trained Nurses, in charge of Sister E. J. Haswell (active service Balkan Wars and Brussels), and Misses Rawlins, Carmichael, Lind, Hitchcock, and Gill.

## THE BELGIAN WOUNDED.

Thousands of wounded Belgian soldiers were brought to this country after the fall of Antwerp, and on Tuesday in last week the Matron-in-Chief, Miss Becher, with some fifty nurses and doctors, went down to Folkestone to superintend their arrival. Happily many, though terribly weary, were able to walk from the steamers, and were soon housed in the Metropole and other places. After rest, feeding and treatment the majority were drafted to comfortable quarters in London, and to the beautiful hospitals specially provided by patriotic people. All were thankful, but the officers very sad. One poor fellow said, "We have no flag now, no country." To which a quiet Sister replied, "Oh, they are only hidden by the Union Jack."

On Tuesday morning the members of the party sent out, with Dr. Rowlands, by Mr. Alfred de Rothschild, which did excellent work in Ambulances in Brussels, returned to London, speaking warmly of the kindness and courtesy shown to them. We regret to learn that one of the party sustained a fracture, from an accident on the homeward journey, and that Miss Wakelin, one of the Red Cross contingent, was seriously ill while in Brussels.

## BRITISH ORDER FOR FRENCH NURSE.

The *London Gazette* makes the following announcement:—"The King has been graciously pleased to confer the Decoration of the Royal Red Cross upon Mademoiselle Eugénie Antoine, of Vailly-sur-Aisne, in recognition of her courageous and devoted services to the British wounded in hospital at Vailly-sur-Aisne whilst the village was under shell fire."

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