

## NURSING AND THE WAR.

## ROYAL SYMPATHY FOR HEROIC NURSES.

There is no doubt that British nurses covered themselves with glory during the bombardment of Antwerp by their devotion to their patients under fire, and their almost superhuman fortitude in conducting the wounded to safety. Nothing could have been finer than their courage. We feel sure these nurses, many of them now on the French and Belgian seaboard, working untiringly for the comfort and recovery of sick and wounded, will be glad to know that Her Majesty the Queen has read of their heroism and fully appreciates it. A Lady-in-Waiting, in writing to a member of the nursing profession, says, "Their devotion is really most touching and noble." No doubt when this terrible time is past and the war over the Queen will give proof of her appreciation of the splendid work of British nurses for our troops at home and abroad.

Her Majesty Queen Alexandra most graciously commanded Sister Haswell, of the Registered Nurses' Society, to Marlborough House on Saturday last—no doubt as the Sister in Charge of the nurses on their return from Brussels, and their representative in the charming courtesies accorded to them in Copenhagen and Christiania. Unfortunately, Sister Haswell was unable to obey the Royal Command, as she is in France as Supervisor of Unit 2 of the French Flag Nursing Corps, at the Military Hospital at Rouen, but we feel sure she will be deeply gratified when she learns of the honour intended for her. We learn that the members of this Corps already at work are very happy and very busily engaged.

We have mentioned how useful rubber gloves would be as a parting gift to nurses nursing in military hospitals. A nurse writes us from Deauville: "I find from a postcard from Tournon you were the kind donor of the rubber gloves posted in Paris to me. You will know how useful they have been to me when I tell you that for more than a fortnight I have had the care of the patients suffering from typhoid fever. They were isolated here from the hospital where they were receiving treatment for wounds. This is a comfortable villa with accommodation for twelve soldiers. At present the Mayor has put me in charge, and I have the help of an *infirmière* for the nursing, a *cuisinière* and a *femme de chambre* for the cooking and cleaning. There is not one person who can speak English in this house.

"We spent one day at Havre last week, and it was delightful to see the khaki, and the sound of ordinary English was very good."

This letter proves how necessary it is that the utmost care should be taken by nurses when in military hospitals when attending suspicious cases. Rubber gloves are a very great safeguard for all concerned.

In Melbourne 400 nurses have volunteered to go to the front, though only 45 are required from Victoria.

The nursing contingent of the Canadian Expeditionary Force are greatly enjoying their stay in London before being assigned to duty. Some of their number go every morning to Queen Alexandra's Military Hospital at Millbank to learn the routine work, and methods of keeping records, and sometimes help with dressings. "Everybody is so good to us," said one of the nurses, "one seems just living with a lump in one's throat all the time."

Princess Alexander of Teck last week welcomed the contingent, numbering 100, to the Middlesex Hospital, of which Prince Alexander is Chairman.

## THE NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Central Office of the National Union of Trained Nurses has been very busy this week supplying trained nurses for the temporary hospitals for wounded that are being mobilized all over the country. A number of nurses have also been sent to the St. John Ambulance Association and to those who are organizing the French Flag Nursing Corps.

The nurses who will be working with the Society of Friends under the auspices of the "Association des Infirmières Visiteuses de France" are:—Miss Evelyn Broad, Miss Lovegrove, Miss Kathleen Townshend, Miss Eleanor Turnell, Miss Ethel Ubsdell, Miss Maria Webbe, Miss Kathleen Paterson, Miss Edith Pierce Toms, Miss Dorothy Sainsbury, Miss Isabella Nicholl, Mrs. Clare Jackson, Miss Mabel Allen, Miss Denham, Miss Tylecote. Seven of these are members of the N.U.T.N. and six are Queen's Nurses.

The Society of Friends' Expedition starts for Paris on November 6th, in charge of Dr. Hilda Clark, and Mr. F. E. Harvey, M.P. Those who are going into the devastated countries will proceed from Paris by motor to the area indicated by the French War Office. They will be under the protection of the British Red Cross Society in case of need, but they will also wear the replica of the badge worn by the Society of Friends on their expedition in 1870, stamped by the French War Office.

The following extract is from a letter received by the Secretary from the mother of one of the members of the National Union of Trained Nurses serving with the British Field Hospital for Belgium.

"They had to leave Furnes (on account of the Germans approaching), where they were working hard with so many wounded (who were sent either to Calais, or the worst of them to the Civil Hospital) and they themselves were sent to Poperinghe to a Convent. However, she expected to return to Furnes on the day she wrote—the 29th—as the Germans were retreating again, so they are very near the Front.

"She described the wounds as terrible, they had ten amputations in one day, and such numbers coming in it was almost impossible to cope with them. The Queen of the Belgians had visited them twice and had been most kind and sweet, and they have been officially attached by the Queen to the regiment."

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