

## FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

Every nurse who has gone on active service under the French Government in the above Corps has been warned that many unavoidable difficulties are met, and have to be overcome in war time, and from little letters sent home we gather that such difficulties are being met in the right British spirit—which nothing can make "down-hearted."

From Evreux, where the sixteen nurses who left on the 5th inst. are divided into detachments of four, working in different hospitals, one sends word: "Miss Ellison met us at Dieppe and arranged everything splendidly for us. At Rouen we were billeted on various people (as officers), who were in every case quite charming to us. Here (Evreux) the Prefect has kindly arranged for us to have a large part of an *étage* consisting of a dormitory for ten, a room for four, and another for the supervisors, as well as a small room to sit in; a large lavatory place, furnished with basins, two bathrooms, &c. . . . Miss Richards and I are at the Ecole Normal, a temporary hospital. We are under a very clever surgeon, who has seven wards. The first days we spent making friends with all the staff. . . . We are very happy and I feel particularly lucky in having such nice comrades to work with. I feel sure gradually we shall have more and more left to us to do when the doctors and staff realise what an English nurse is like. . . . If you do hear of anyone wanting to send things to the soldiers, do beg them to send to us any of the following articles:—Shirts (Army), socks, body belts, or sweaters. They are so sadly needed by the French soldiers, who often arrive in hospital without anything more than they stand up in. They need these sort of things more than drugs. The Sisters of my batch seem very happy. Our hours are not killing, we work from 7 to 11 and from 2 to 5. We have meals at the hospital, and our cook is evidently a chef, so we are very lucky. . . . The President of the 'Dames Francaises' came and asked to be introduced to us, and we exchanged amiabilities. . . . She asked us to go with her, her husband and daughter to see the Civil Hospital, which we did. Such a nice one, and very well arranged. We also went to visit the 'Dames Francaises' in their sitting-room, which seemed to please them greatly."

Miss Hawkins attends all operations, dressings,

does serum injections, and massage, and "has hardly a minute for anything but work and sleep." Nurses Wilcox and Case have been special night and day on a very serious operation. Miss Bale works in the officers' ward. All are pleased and satisfied to have plenty to do.

Nurses in Scotland will be specially interested in news of the first unit of Scottish nurses who left for France on the 14th inst. From Rouen they were sent to Havre and began work at the Lycée des Garçons on the following Thursday. It is a very large school, which holds over 400 beds. The St. Bartholomew's Hospital nurses are working at the Hotel Frascatti. Miss Mitchell says: "We could not have been treated with greater kindness than we have received since we came here. The chief doctor in the hospital knows Edinburgh and our Royal Infirmary very

well, and does everything in his power to make things pleasant for us. Nurses Hendrie and McKinnon have got one ward to do as they please in, with a sergeant as orderly, who speaks English fluently. Nurse Bennett and I have four wards, with a charming French woman to assist us; Nurse Simpson helps the doctor she works under with his dressings, and Nurse Horan returned to Rouen in place of Miss Shankland, who was needed at the Hotel Frascatti to speak French. . . . Compared with the strict discipline of our hospital, everything in a military hospital seems very easy-going. . . . We get all our meals, except breakfast, at the hospital, and are well fed, even having afternoon tea. So far we have met with none of the hardships we expected. We

have also got comfortable rooms, which we leave at 7.30 a.m. and return to twelve hours later. We have lunch at 11.30, and do not return to the wards till 2 p.m., so we are not overworked. I think we shall all like it very much."

Like our own soldiers when wounded and admitted to hospital, their French compatriots have pretty well worn out their clothing, and upon discharge need a new outfit, and such comforts the F.F.N.C. would like to distribute to patients in need. The Committee have therefore agreed to accept such gifts if friends will kindly forward them to Lady Barclay, President, at 60, Nevcrn Square, Earl's Court, London, S.W. Shirts (flannel), socks, body belts, and sweaters would be most acceptable, and must be new and of good quality.



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