

numbered 102 altogether; 19 quite helpless ones came into my ward. I shall never forget their arrival. We were at the windows. There was a large crowd of cheering people round the gates, as stretcher after stretcher was brought in from the ambulances. A big lump came into my throat when I received my first battered, grimy bundle. This was quickly followed by 18 others, all more or less in the same condition. They had been travelling four days with only a first aid dressing on their wounds, and that under anything but comfortable conditions.

"We guessed they would be in a terribly dirty state, so we previously stretched a blanket over each bed, in which we rolled the poor things until we could get their wounds dressed and their clothes off. How glad was each one when he was finally tucked up and given some food. They were so hungry; for two days we could scarcely satisfy them."

After giving other interesting information, Miss France adds a little sentence which will encourage many to think of those who have left their friends in Willesden for these national duties: "I had a message from the Christian Endeavour at Neasden. It is good to know that one is remembered in the prayers of others. One needs them all just now."

QUEEN MARY'S CANADIAN MILITARY HOSPITAL.

We reported last week that the War Office had accepted a military hospital from Canada, to be called "Queen Mary's Canadian Military Hospital," and expressed the hope it would be staffed by Canadian nurses. This, we are informed by the Surgeon-in-Chief, Mr. Donald Armour, F.R.C.S., will, if possible, be the case. The services of the following Canadians, who are at present in London, have been accepted as nurses:—

Miss Muriel Galt (Montreal General Hospital), who was a nurse in the Spanish-American War; Miss Gertrude Squire (Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal), who attended the Duchess of Connaught in her illness; Miss L. R. Bryce (Toronto General and Sick Children's Hospitals); Miss Flora Pyke (Toronto Sick Children's Hospital); Miss Bessie Mitchell (Toronto General and Sick Children's Hospitals); Miss Amy MacMahon (Johns Hopkins Hospital); Miss Flora Wylie (Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal); Miss G. L. Baynes (Montreal General Hospital); Miss G. M. M. Wake (Victoria Jubilee Hospital, Victoria, B.C.); and Miss Beatrice Hassell (Victoria Jubilee Hospital, Victoria, B.C.).

In addition to these, ten or twelve nurses are expected to arrive in London in a few days, who are being sent over from Montreal by the Women of Canada Association, which has presented a hospital of 100 beds at Haslar to the Admiralty. We have also sent in names of Canadian volunteers.

Several nice country houses have been offered to the St. John Ambulance Association where tired nurses from the front can convalesce or rest.

THE "LAST POST."

We deeply regret to record the death of Miss Minnie Bailey Thompson, who died at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, on the 15th inst., and who was on active service as a member of the Territorial Force Nursing Service at No. 2 London General Hospital, St. Mark's College, Chelsea, when taken ill. This is the first death of a Territorial nurse on active service, and her loss is sincerely lamented by many colleagues and friends. It is recorded of her that she was greatly beloved by all who knew her. What better epitaph?

The funeral, which was conducted with full military honours, took place on Friday, September 19th at Brompton Cemetery. The first portion of the service was held in the chapel belonging to the College. The body lay on a bier at the entrance to the chancel covered with the Union Jack. The floral tributes, of which the prevailing tone was scarlet, were arranged around the bier. Three tall funeral lights stood on either side.

Silently her comrades in their picturesque uniforms took their seats on the south side. Those who were to accompany the funeral to the cemetery were in outdoor uniform, and the remainder wore the regulation cap and apron. All wore a black armlet. On the north side were accommodated the civilian nurses. The service was read by Canon Wilberforce, and the hymn "On the Resurrection Morning" was sung very sweetly. At the conclusion all stood while the Dead March was played with great solemnity, and the body was carried between two lines of orderlies standing at salute, to the gun carriage awaiting it. The procession then formed, and was preceded by a detachment of Territorials accompanied by their mounted commanding officer. Immediately following the coffin came the civilian nurses, amongst whom we recognised several University College Hospital faces. Then came the Territorial Nursing Staff, whose rear was brought up by the Matron-in-Chief. Then another detachment of Territorials, and other mourners.

A large concourse of people collected along the route, which was of considerable extent.

The grave was prepared in the military portion of the cemetery. At the conclusion the "Last Post" was sounded, announcing with its unforgettable wail that the work of Minnie Thompson was as far as this life is concerned over, and that she had gone to reap the reward promised to those who tend their Master in the persons of His sick and suffering. "Thé sleep of the labouring man is sweet."

Amongst those present were Miss Darbyshire, Principal Matron, and Miss Riddell, Matron of No. 2 London General Hospital, Miss Cox-Davies, Principal Matron No. 1 Hospital, and Miss Finch, Matron of University College Hospital.
H. H.

In reply to enquiries from friends, we have received no news from Miss Cutler, but have reason to believe she and her party are well.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)