

us, but we insisted on two of us being together in each cell. All that night we were allowed no food or water. Friends in Mons, hearing of our treatment, made a fuss about it, and we were allowed to get in food.

"We were imprisoned on the 1st December, and on the 5th our German gaolers came and informed us that we were wanted at the Hotel de Ville. The sight of two motor-cars flying the Stars and Stripes rejoiced us greatly. The American Minister had made representations to the German authorities at Brussels. At first they denied that we were in prison, but afterwards they said we might come to Brussels. The American Minister accordingly sent his cars to fetch us away.

"On the 9th we started by rail for Maastricht. When the train drew up at Liège we were surrounded by an armed guard, our baggage was flung out on the platform, and we were marched to the Hotel de Ville attended by soldiers with fixed bayonets. We were detained over five hours, and when at last we were permitted to depart an armed soldier was detailed to 'guard' us in the train as far as Aix-le-Chapelle.

"We reached Aix at four o'clock in the morning, when the night stationmaster ordered us out, and we were marched a long way to the barracks and locked up. When we saw the commandant he said he must communicate with Brussels about our passports, and again we were interned all night.

ARMED ESCORT.

"For some reason the permission to go through Holland, which had been granted at Brussels, was cancelled, and we were told we must proceed by way of Denmark. On resuming our journey we had an armed escort of four men through Cologne to Hamburg.

"At Hamburg crowds of people jeered at them, and made insulting remarks.

"From Hamburg to the Danish frontier was the 'sticiest' part of the journey. The train was filled with soldiers, and the commandant of the particular contingent detailed to look after us said to his men: 'Just show the ladies that your rifles are not playthings,' and in accordance with his command they charged the magazines of their rifles with ball cartridge in our presence."

THE JOINT WAR COMMITTEE.

The following nurses have been sent out to Home Hospitals under the authority of the Joint War Committee:—

- Bury (Lancashire).*—Miss Evans.
- Indian Hospital, Brighton.*—Miss Bridges.
- Hill Crest, Edgbaston.*—Miss H. Clark.
- Studley Court, Stourbridge.*—Miss Walters.
- V.A.D. Hospital, Exeter.*—Miss Lorrimer.
- Military Hospital, Southall.*—Miss Swaine.
- Knighton House, Leicester.*—Miss Jones.

The Joint Committee has offices both at St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, E.C., and at 83, Pall Mall, S.W., and the Matron-in-Chief, Miss S. A. Swift, attends at both offices.

THE CARE OF THE WOUNDED.

The King is deeply interested in the special Day of Intercession, fixed for Sunday next, when collections in all the churches will be invited in support of the fund for the sick and wounded administered by the Joint War Committee, representing the Order of St. John of Jerusalem and the British Red Cross Committee. This Fund has been already supported by a generous public to the extent of nearly £800,000.

His Majesty the King has sent a contribution of £100 to the Servian Relief Fund.

Queen Alexandra has sent a Christmas gift to the patients in the sick bay at the Royal Naval Reserve depôt at the Crystal Palace of 60 boxes of cigarettes and 50 boxes of sweets with a picture of herself on the lid, and a card bearing the inscription, "A little Christmas present from Alexandra."

The report by Sir Frederick Treves on the Red Cross work in the North of France, officially published by the British Red Cross Society, touches very slightly on the nursing question. In this we think the writer is wise, as a detailed report of the nursing, to be of value, must be drawn up by a thoroughly experienced Nurse-Inspector, after investigation and enquiry, and no such official accompanied Sir Frederick Treves on his recent visit to France.

A hospital train has been placed at the disposal of the military authorities in Egypt through the generosity of the Egyptian Red Crescent Society, which has contributed the sum of £1,600 for this beneficent work.

The opening of the King George Hospital for Soldiers in the Waterloo Road, to contain 1,600 beds, is not likely to be ready until March. In the interim the most serious question is to secure a thoroughly efficient nursing staff. As we have previously reported, Miss Davies, formerly Matron of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, has been elected Matron, and she has before her a stupendous task in securing the staff of nearly 300 Sisters and staff nurses required.

Sisters and Nurses are also needed to staff the St. John Ambulance Brigade Hospital of 500 beds, which may be used either at home or abroad.

Members of V.A.D.'s are to be used as orderlies in both these hospitals, let us hope in such a minority as will not interfere with the discipline of the nursing department, and that their duties will be strictly defined in print, so that they will understand before engagement what a woman orderly's duties are. Frankly, unless they are the duties of first year probationers we are at a loss to know what they are. Anyway, unless they help with the nursing in strictly defined positions as probationers, they have no right to wear nurses' uniform, and if they are there for that special purpose there should be no running in and out, but they should enter into a contract to serve until the end of the War, or until these hospitals are no longer required. Thoroughly trained nurses only should be employed on

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)