

pneumonia, and "suspects." We have been most kindly received by the Médecin-en-Chef and other doctors. We were taken round all the hospitals and shown how they were worked. They were all *spotless*, and worked very systematically. It has greatly increased our respect for French hospitals. They are all worked entirely by infirmières. The three Sisters, Eadie, Cooke and Roberts are working in a hospital containing typhoids. One has 63 patients, one 20, another 30 to 45. I am in one of the new modern buildings called *barraquements*. They hold 18 patients each, now I have 35 in the two buildings. We shall have much more work than we can manage here, as when the *barraquements* are finished they will contain 450 in Verneuil. We are all to be in sheds when they are finished. At present there are 350 patients here, mostly medical, and as the doctors are very hard worked I hope we shall be able to help them greatly. We shall do our best. Since we arrived last Friday we have had new patients every day, 48, 68 and 28 to-day. We are in the Champagne district. Since the Germans were here most of the shops have been pillaged. Our house was evacuated by the owners, and no one knows where they are. It was only partly furnished, so we set to scrub and clean and put things in order. Two Commanders came to call on us the day of our arrival to wish us luck and thank us for coming. Very courteous indeed. There are many troops here, mostly artillery. It is all so interesting, and we are the only women folk excepting a few villagers. We are most grateful for being sent here, where we have a superabundance of work and a most interesting environment."

### LETTERS FROM THE FRONT.

Extracts from letter from Miss E. M. Pye (Org. Sec. National Union of Trained Nurses), who is working with the Friends' Expedition to the Devastated Provinces of France:—

"Maternité Departmentale,  
Chalons.

"One poor woman was not able to get to the Maternity Hospital here in time; she was a refugee from the Ardennes, and was living at Poquy, a village about 10 miles from here. Her husband came to ask for help, saying the baby had arrived at one o'clock that morning. She had been attended to by another woman, but they had no clothing, &c. Unfortunately, we had no motor here that day, so we could not send. We gave the husband some linen, and the next day Miss Turnell went with the motor, and brought in the poor woman, the new baby, and also twin boys of a year old. Their condition is better imagined than described, but after a multitude of cleanings up, the twins are now worshipped by the entire hospital. The mother and babe are doing well.

"We had a serious operation a few days ago.

A widow with a family to bring up applied to a hospital for removal of a growth, but the hospital was so full of septic wounded soldiers that she was told she would have to wait until the end of the war. So she came to us. The operation was successfully performed, and she is doing well. She is a refugee from Lermaise and her house is burnt to the ground. She is most interested in her dressing, and all the precautions as to a sepsis, &c., amuse her very much.

"Yesterday Dr. Holdsworth and I went to R—— to fetch patients. We had a most interesting day, as you may imagine. They were a little doubtful of giving us permits for R——, but the word from the Prefecture that I had asked for, obtained them in the end. We drove all through the lovely Champagne country, and it was so curious to see soldiers in uniforms tending the vines. When we began to get near to R—— the sentries stopped us every 500 yards or so. They read our papers very seriously, and at one place we thought they would really stop us, but I again produced the Prefet's note, which again acted like a charm, and we got safely through. About four miles from the city, at a point at which you first see the cathedral rising enormous from the midst of a mist, the roads divide, and the sentry told us we had better go by the most northern, as they had been shelling the others all morning. So we took their advice and arrived by a rather winding route, and went straight past the cathedral to the Hôtel de Ville, the Prefecture having been destroyed.

"The Sous-Prefet, to whom our errand was, 'camps out' in the Hotel de Ville for the time. We found he would not be in for some time, so we went out on foot to see what we could see. It is like a city of the dead; the rain was pouring down, and the water poured from the gargoyles on the cathedral, looking exactly as if they were weeping for the destruction of all around them. Within a large area round it there is not a pane of glass remaining, and hardly a roof at all. All the great buildings and the Place Royale are knocked to bits. Many parts of the cathedral appear to be unhurt, and looking through the barricaded front one could catch a glimpse of the wonderful east window with the glass apparently unhurt. But on going round one saw how the heat had loosened the framework everywhere, and many of the windows are absolutely gone. In the very front one of the pillars looks just like a fractured bone, and the whole thing looks as if one could push it over with a blow of the hand.

"In the deserted market there were two stalls—women selling green food, oranges and apples—and actually the Paris papers are now delivered there every day. I bought the day's news at 2 p.m.!

"There was an accompaniment of heavy gunfire all the time, but no shells had dropped into the city since the night before, when some people had been killed and wounded as usual. The Germans were from 2–3 miles off, they said.

"After our little walk round we went back to the Prefecture, only to find that it would still be

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