

This sounds very grumbly, but to go into the 'grave salle' where the eight worst cases are, all delirious, and spitting all over the floor, most of them at death's door, and then to realise we are short of disinfectants—it is a veritable pest-house. Not another *crachoir* has been sent to us, and so far the only difference our coming has made is that the patients are a little cleaner, and look more cared for. To-night there is not a clean sheet to be found in the whole place, and they say the laundry is only done once a fortnight.

I'm feeling very desperate to-night, but not without reason. Some of the beds *must* be changed, some of the cases have frequent involuntary movements—but there, I didn't mean to go into further detail."

### SIX WEEKS IN DUNKIRK.

It may, perhaps, interest some to hear of the work of three nurses sent out by the St. John Ambulance to Dunkirk. That is to say the Church Army really undertook the work at the instigation of Lady Bagot who was then working in the station sheds which were being converted into a sort of clearing hospital. We were taken over by the Admiralty yacht and met by Lady Bagot, who told us of the work that was already in progress. The Society of Friends had sent out a number of Doctors in connection with the Anglo-Belgian Ambulance work, and besides doing very useful work helping in dressing-stations and picking up French wounded they were lending a hand in the sheds. At the time we three made our appearance the wounded were coming in in great numbers and the sheds were so packed that the poor creatures lay all over the floor on stretchers as well as on the hastily improvised beds. Lady Decies had been helping right willingly and getting a lot of things done to mitigate the sufferings of the poor soldiers. For quite a long time we had a busy time and came in contact with French, Turcos and Singalese. Can one ever forget the impression made on one by the scenes there; the long French or Belgian trains drawing up to the sidings with their sad freights; the patient and almost terrifying composure of the French *piou-pious*; the picturesque mixture of races and the kind, busy, French medical officer with his "Mon brave" and "Mon petit," always cheery, and hopeful, and courteous to the group of English Doctors and Nurses waiting the order to start dressings, before the re-loading of the trains. Then by degrees the gradual apportioning and reduction of the work into its proper portions; the draughting of a capable lady of the French Croix Rouge and an army of dressers from the Paris Hospitals. Towards the last few weeks there were many more sick than wounded, and friends among the French and English were busy arranging for the nursing of enteric cases which is still going on under very difficult conditions. But nowhere on earth could one have been more privileged to work, or more closely brought into touch with all the stern realities of this dreadful war. To realize oneself in direct contact with the

men straight out of the trenches and to see their wonderful stoicism under such appalling conditions, covered with mud, bruised, bleeding, maimed and dying, and yet expiring joyfully "pour la patrie," is to know that in the end the barbarians must loosen their hold on the fair land of France no matter what it cost her children in blood and tears. The gay, careless French, so heedless of war, so enamoured of life and gaiety and now so quiet and subdued, and with all their trust in their prudent General Joffre, develop before us qualities as yet undreamed of, of endurance and courage under fire. To leave the shores of this island and to work and talk amongst men and women who have seen the deadly peril at their doors, and the "sales bosches" at their house-wrecking work, would determine the least courageous of us never to turn back an inch until the Hun has been absolutely crushed and rendered too weak to attempt again to destroy the world's peace by such horrible and dastardly crimes against mankind. Better still, to feel the welcome given to the *Infirmières Anglaises*, and the appreciation of the help given by our Doctors and Nurses to the wounded of our Allies, is to have had a real share in trying to do something, however small, for our brave Allies. It has been my privilege now to have nursed members of four nationalities engaged in this great struggle and I must confess that though very grateful to be again among my own, my heart goes back always to the poor little devastated country of Belgium we first visited. Its people seem to have such need of all our sympathy with so small a bit as yet untouched, and it may be again my lot to give a hand out there before the conflict ends. However that may be, there is work enough for all, and we trained nurses are needed as we never were needed before. Let it be our part to see that the Voluntary element shall have no share in destroying our own sense of responsibility and discipline, and try and live up to our ideals before a very large and critical crowd who enter the profession only for the moment, and who will again leave us in possession when the excitement of war is over.

FRANCES WAUGH.

### A NEW WATER STERILIZER.

Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., of Snow Hill Buildings, E.C., have devised a new chemical method for the rapid sterilization of water, which should prove invaluable at the present time.

Ten gallons of water can be treated by the "Tabloid" Brand Water Sterilizer on the following method, with a reasonable certainty that contaminated water may be freed from living typhoid and cholera organisms, and from those bacilli which are known to cause dysentery. Sterilization is effected by means of chlorine, set free in the water from chlorinated lime. The process can be carried out in 15 minutes with one "Tabloid" of Chlorinated Lime, a sample of the water should then be tested for free chlorine with a "Soloid" Potassium Iodide and Starch. The free chlorine is then eliminated with sodium thio-sulphate, leaving the water ready for drinking.

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