

## AN INTERVIEW WITH MISS GRAY.

The exigencies of the War have brought to this country many of our colleagues from our Empire Over Seas, inspired with the love of the Mother Country, which impels them to hasten to her aid. One of the latest arrivals is Miss Ethel Gray, Matron in the Australian Army Nursing Service, who, with five Sisters, Miss L. Pratt (Senior Sister), Miss H. Chadwick, Miss E. Mills, Miss M. Hayes and Miss R. Kidd—all fully certificated and members of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association—have come from Australia to staff the Convalescent Home, Harefield Park, near Uxbridge, given by Mr. Billiard Leake as a Convalescent Home for sick and wounded Australians, and equipped by the generosity of the Commonwealth. The Medical Officer, Captain Southey, is expected to arrive shortly.

I found Miss Gray in the pretty sitting-room, placed at her disposal by Miss Cave, the Lady Superintendent of the Kensington Gardens Club, at 57, Kensington Gardens Square, S.W., where she is at present staying; the other Sisters, with the exception of Miss Kidd, are now happily at work at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, and appreciative of the opportunity of an insight into English military methods.

The uniform of the Australian Army Nursing Service is both distinctive and becoming. It consists of a grey serge gown for the Matron, with chocolate-coloured cuffs, and a scarlet cape—similar to that worn by the Sisters of our own Military Nursing Service, but differing slightly in shape. When on duty Miss Gray will wear grey zephyr. The Sisters also wear a grey zephyr gown, with two chocolate bands on the cuffs, and the red cape. The large silver buttons, with the letters "G.R.," are both distinctive and handsome; and the cap is that worn by our Military, Reserve and Territorial Services.

The badge of the Service which, by the kindness of Miss Gray, we here reproduce, has as its centre a red cross worked in silk, enclosed in a circle in which are the words, "Australian Army Nursing Service," and in a wreath of leaves, worked on the Matron's badge, in silver wire and on the Sisters' in silk; the whole is surmounted by a Crown. It is worn by the Matrons on the right fore-arm, and by the Sisters above the elbow. The out-door uniform consists of long grey coats; and a grey bonnet, with a chocolate band beneath the grey brim.

Both Matron and Sisters wear a silver brooch, which has a crown as its centre, behind which is the rising sun, and inscribed upon a scroll, the words, "Australian Commonwealth Military Force."

Miss Gray who, when she left Australia, was Matron of the Perth Hospital, in Western Australia, was trained at the Melbourne Hospital, first under Miss M. D. Farquharson, of whom she speaks with admiration; and then under Miss Amy L. Burleigh, by whom she was promoted to the position of Sister; and remaining in all for twelve years, latterly with Miss J. Bell, well known to many nurses in both England and Scotland.

It is an interesting fact that Miss Farquharson was an Hon. Member and Miss Burleigh and Miss Bell have been members of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland—so small is the world, and so far-reaching the influence of the Matrons' Council.

The Perth Hospital, of which Miss Gray is Matron, as she has had leave of absence for her present work, has, with a Branch Hospital under its jurisdiction, over 300 beds; it is, therefore, an important training school.

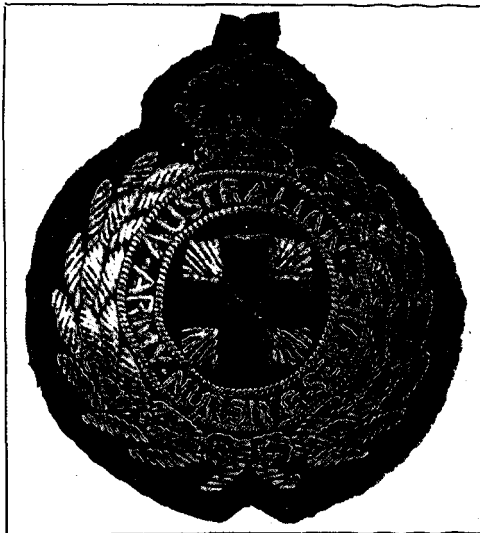
The Australian Army Nursing Service, of which Miss Gray is a member, includes Miss Gould and Miss Bell as Principal Matrons, both of whom went with the contingent of 161 members of the Service to Egypt. The latest news of Miss Gould is that, with some of the Sisters, she has gone to the Dardanelles, to help to provide the nursing

staff, which it is anticipated will be required shortly.

In each of the States in Australia the Military Nursing Service has a Matron or Matrons; it also includes Sisters and Staff Nurses. The members, who are, of course, all fully-trained and certificated, have to attend a special course of lectures before entering the Service. They provide their own uniform in time of peace, but if they go on active service the money they have expended is refunded.

The voyage from Australia was without exciting incident, but Miss Gray describes the passage through the Suez Canal as very interesting. The ship passed close enough to the shore to permit their seeing the wire entanglements which protected it, and for passengers to throw oranges to the Indian troops stationed behind them.

Nursing organisation in Australia has, as our



BADGE OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY NURSING SERVICE.

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