

The fact that at the present moment there is not a single case of dysentery among the troops is evidence of the excellent work of the Royal Army Medical Corps and the sanitary officers.

Nowhere have help in personal service, medical comforts, and cash been offered more lavishly to the Mother country at this time than in Australia, where Lady Helen Munro Ferguson is President of the Australian Branch of the British Red Cross Society. Now Madame Melba, by a series of concerts, has raised over £6,000 for the funds.

The appeal in the Press of Lady Falmouth and Mrs. Gwynne Holford for help in establishing a convalescent auxiliary hospital or hospitals, where soldiers and sailors who have been maimed in the war can learn how to use their artificial limbs before returning to their own homes, will warmly commend itself to many. The scheme has the approval of the Queen, and the sanction of the Directors-General of the Navy and Army, and several eminent orthopaedic surgeons have promised their help. Those who desire to help this work should communicate with C. H. Kinderdine, Esq., St. Stephen's House, Westminster, S.W., marking their letters "Auxiliary Hospital."

In the recent attack on Dunkirk the Military Hospital was, unfortunately, partially wrecked and many of the wounded killed. The arsenal, which appears to have been the enemy's objective, was untouched.

The Surgeon-in-Chief from the Urgency Cases Hospital at Bar-le-Duc, writes to Miss Eden, the Hon. Secretary:—

We are all very happy here, although we are kept pretty busy. Everybody is most kind to us from General Mignon down. He often comes to see us and spends quite a time in the wards looking at wounds and examining cases.

On one occasion I was right up at the front, and I can only say that the roads from there to St. Menchould are terrible.

Most of our cases are wounds of the limbs, some of them very bad. We get a lot of fractures, most of them compound.

At first the cases that came to us had been some time in other hospitals and they were usually much infected. Now we get fresh cases and we try hard to kill out any infection. I must say it is difficult, however, as the wounds are soiled with earth and bits of clothing.

I am very pleased with the staff. The surgeons are a splendid lot of men, and the nurses are a fine hardworking lot of women.

The authorities here give us freely of what they have got, and even buy certain things for us. Their surgical dressings differ a good deal from ours, but some of them are very useful.

You can be assured that this hospital is doing good work and hopes to do even better in the future.

## THE NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MEETING.

#### THE VOCATION OF NURSING AND ITS POWER IN THE WORLD TO-DAY.

The thirteenth Annual Conference and Meeting of the Nurses' Missionary League was held on Wednesday, April 28th, in the University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C. In spite of the unprecedented call at this time for the services of trained nurses, a good muster of members availed themselves of the invitation.

#### CONFERENCE.

##### Morning Session.

The guests were hospitably received at 9.45, with tea and various light refreshments, and at 10 a.m. the Conference was opened with prayer. Miss A. M. Boyle presided over the morning session.

The subject of the Conference was "The Vocation of Nursing and Its Power in the World To-day."

##### THE CALL OF GOD.

The first address was given by Miss Mayers, on "The Call of God." She asked her hearers to consider what they were met together for—to give. We live, she said, by what we give; we never get when we come to get. Life—all life—is a call. A nurse stands for the strength of God, and it is her vocation to impart strength. She would make a great mistake if she lost touch with its source. It was not necessary to go out of our path, but to be more and more faithful to what we are. Faithfulness up to the hilt was required of us, if we were to fulfil our vocation. She urged her audience to take a wide view of their work, and not merely to live as individuals. She told a story of a dying officer in the trenches during the present war, who refused the tea brought to him. "You want it," said he; "remember we have to hold the trenches." Miss Mayers concluded by saying, "There are two great realities in this vast universe—the heart of God and the heart of man—each seeking the other.

##### THE QUEEN'S NURSE: HER DIFFICULTIES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO-DAY.

Miss Amy Hughes, the next speaker, took for her subject, "The Queen's Nurse: Her Difficulties and Opportunities To-day." After giving a brief outline of the origin of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, she said that when it was realised what were the intimate relations between the district nurse and the masses of the working classes, it would be understood that very special women were needed for this branch of work. The difficulties associated with it were very great, the lack of material ready to hand, and that which every good nurse must feel keenly—the having to leave serious cases, such as enterics, where there was no isolation hospital available, to the care of their friends until the next visit. District nurses needed to be able to educate others; to

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