

way to Belgium, and left on Saturday for their work at La Panne. Dr. Depage appealed by cable to Dr. Armstrong of Montreal for help for the Belgian Medical Service, and the result was that these qualified nurses volunteered their services. The names of the nurses who have come to the aid of the bravest and most unfortunate of our brave Allies, are Mrs. W. Hutchinson and the Misses Lamont, Janet McCorshan, Marion Boa, Jean Kidd, Bertha Merriman, Norah Pedley, Elizabeth Ross, Elizabeth Kennedy, Mabel Trenholme, Ethel Gall, Agnes Gallot, Gertrude Donkin, Maysie Parsons, Nellie Lewis, Edith Stuart, Helen Claxton, Grace Brough, Mary Kingston, Frances Harman and Eliza Jones. During their perilous journey by the *Transylvania*, which landed passengers at Glasgow instead of at Liverpool, some of the nurses actually saw the periscope of a submarine, bent, no doubt, on their destruction.

While in London the nurses received much kindness and attention and they are loud in their expressions of gratitude to their hosts of the Mother Country. Mr. H. Nelson Smith of Hull, who escorted them to Belgium, is well known to nurses on account of his association with hospital supplies for all the Allies' Governments. Among the entertainments provided for them was a sight-seeing drive with Miss A. A. Smith as hostess and cicerone. Miss Smith and her brother received the warmest thanks of the visiting nurses.

We are sure that the services of these nurses will be much appreciated at La Panne, and that they will always be glad that they responded to the invitation to come to the help of heroic Belgium.

Dr. C. T. Ewart, of Claybury Asylum, writes to the press to point out, in relation to the mental shock sustained by soldiers, that to be certified as a lunatic does brand an individual with a stigma which handicaps harshly in life. It wrecks homes, ruins happiness, and crushes with bitter despair the soul of many a man.

He suggests that one of our asylums which has been emptied of its normal population should be used for the treatment of cases of incipient or transitory insanity due to stress and shock in the trenches. A very large majority, he thinks, would quickly recover, especially as they would then have the great advantage of expert care.

There must be no certification, and the patient should not come into touch in any way with the power now dealing with ordinary lunatics. If at the end of three or six months the medical officer in charge of the hospital decides that the case is not likely to recover, the patient can then be certified and sent to an asylum.

The question should be dealt with as a problem arising from the War, and for the sake of the future welfare of a brave man, who has been stricken sorely while upholding the best traditions of the race, red-tape should be conspicuous by its absence. We heartily agree with this humane and sensible advice.

FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

There is a consensus of opinion that the work done by the Sisters sent to Bergues to tackle the typhoid epidemic in March, has been beyond praise. The epidemic has now subsided, and it was with great pleasure we received the following letter from M. Paul Isaac, Officier d'Administration du Service de Santé, at Bergues, in which he recognises their courageous services in such happy phrases.

DEVOTION OF ENGLISH SISTERS.

Bergues, 18 Mai, 1915.

MADAME,—Veuillez me permettre de vous adresser ces quelques lignes pour vous transmettre l'impression si favorable que j'ai éprouvée lors du bombardement de Bergues (10 et 11 ct), en présence du dévouement dont firent preuve les Infirmières anglaises employées dans nos hôpitaux. Maintes fois déjà, j'avais pu constater leur sollicitude, empreinte d'une exquise bonté, en faveur de nos chers malades, mais lors du bombardement de notre ville, il m'a été permis de pouvoir apprécier mieux encore leur vaillance et leur bravoure au milieu du danger.

Les deux Infirmières de l'hôpital Jeanne d'Arc, Sister Isabel Carmichael et Sister Mary Sutton, se sont particulièrement distinguées pour le transport des malades dans les caves voisines, alors que de formidables projectiles tombaient avec fracas sur notre bourgade.

Les six infirmières de l'hôpital "Sainte-Union" sont vaillamment restées à leur poste, au milieu des typhoïdiques confiés à leurs soins.

Je n'ai pas qualité, Madame, pour accorder des distinctions honorifiques, ni même pour vous transmettre officiellement un rapport, mais il m'a semblé que vous seriez heureuse d'accueillir des informations aussi favorables concernant les Infirmières anglaises préposées au service de nos hôpitaux et dont la conduite est au-dessus de tout éloge.

Que Dieu bénisse celles qui se consacrent avec tant de noblesse et d'abnégation en faveur de nos chers soldats de France!

Veuillez agréer, Madame, l'assurance de mes plus respectueux hommages.

P. ISAAC,
Officier d'adm.

We are indebted to Sister Gill, R.N.S., for some effective snapshots showing how near to destruction l'Hôpital St. Union was during the recent bombardment by the Germans. They were taken as soon as the dust from the explosion settled, and we reproduce one which shows the ruins of a house near the hospital, and as a contrast a snap of a tea party in the linen room the day after the bombardment. Such is war, and such we rejoice to know are British nurses when taking part in it. Death exploding at the door one day, the consolation of the teapot in the linen room the next, and every time a good nerve and a good conscience.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)