

The fever hospitals are now nearly empty, and Sister Gill writes: "Of course, we were terribly sorry to part with all our patients in such a hurry, and only hope the hospital will be re-opened. It would be heart-breaking to have to leave all the lovely sheets, shirts and other things which have been sent over to us."

Sister Lind adds: "St. Union has been empty for a week now. One shell fell about thirty yards away, breaking most of the windows. . . . We have had the hospital thoroughly cleaned out from top to bottom, and now obeying the order of the General at Bergues are waiting for St. Union to open when the bombardment is over. . . . In the meanwhile we have all our worldly goods in a cellar.

We sleep above ground, but have everything at hand ready to descend at a minute's notice. All our landladies hurriedly departed to the country, leaving us homeless; but through the kind offices of one of the priests here we were lent an empty house of a friend of his, who is away at the front, and whose wife and family fled at the beginning of the bombardment—luckily for us. Will you announce that I to-day received from Mrs. Lawless, from Falmouth, a second consignment of slippers for our patients? She had seen the appeal in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. With this consignment of slippers she also sent bed socks and acid drops for the patients. We have the things in safety, and hope we shall soon be in working order again to use them. We are all well, and wondering each morning what the day will bring forth."

A few patients still remain at the Jeanne d'Arc Hospital, which is quite up-to-date, as it possesses a cave. Sister Carmichael writes: "During the bombardment it was a great experience

moving our patients down in the caves. Our patients are the only ones left in Bergues—mostly typhoids. We are all well."

We wish there was more money to send masseuses to help the French soldiers. The two Sisters at Evreux work on sixty to seventy cases

a day, and the *École Professionnelle* has become quite a big massage centre, and an electricity department has been fitted up. The Sisters are greatly encouraged with the progress made by the patients. We hear of one poor fellow "who had twenty-two wounds, and one bullet went through his head, leaving him with a vacant smiling face; but I think I shall make his limbs useful to him

again." The Sisters greatly appreciate the courtesy and kindness of the doctor and other friends. "Our room is always heaped up with flowers. The soldiers gather them for us. Most beautiful lilies-of-the-valley, lilacs, and other lovely things."

The French Government is now very averse to engaging Sisters for a period of six months, as it is found it takes them some little time to fit in with their strange surroundings, and just as their work becomes of real value, and well appreciated, it is time to depart.

Miss Ida Peile, who was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Sunderland, and now holds the position of Superintendent of the District Nurses' Home, London-derry, will act as Supervisor of the following Sisters leaving for France on Saturday, May 29th: Miss G. M. Hawthorne, cert. Westminster Hospital; Miss M. MacLean Steven, cert. Glasgow Royal Infirmary; and Miss V. E. E. Macarthur, cert. City Hospital, Edinburgh (Fever Unit).



RUINS OF HOUSE NEAR HOSPITAL, BERGUES.



TEA PARTY IN LINEN ROOM, ST. UNION, BERGUES.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)