

### NURSING AND THE WAR.

Miss J. E. M. Barbier, R.R.C., whose portrait we are able to publish by the courtesy of the Editor of the *Lady's Pictorial*, has had the honour of being mentioned in despatches, and also of receiving the Royal Red Cross from the King. Miss Barbier was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Bristol, and was sent to France as a member of the Civil Hospitals Reserve. At the half-yearly meeting of the Board of Governors, held at that institution last week, the announcement made by the President, Sir George White, that this distinction had been conferred upon a member of the nursing staff, was greeted with much applause.

One of the pleasant duties of the members of the staff of a professional journal, such as THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, is to visit institutions—pleasant, not only because they thereby see all the newest developments and devices used in nursing the sick, but because of the courtesy of the Matrons who not only readily explain all there is to be seen, but make the visitor feel really welcome. This, in a Matron upon whom duties throng in connection with the opening of a new hospital, or department, is no small achievement, especially in one of the new Military Hospitals, where everything has to be planned and organized from the basement to the roof, with a staff gathered together from a number of different hospitals. Yet only twice in a period of twenty years can the writer remember a reception in one instance chilly, in the other discourteous. She remembers very many acts of courtesy and much warm hospitality to the stranger within the gates.

In the correspondence which has been taking place in the *Spectator* in relation to the treatment of V.A.D. War Probationers by hospital Sisters and Nurses it is evident that the situation created by the introduction of such probationers contains elements productive of friction. The war probationer, who outside the hospital declares that she does not mind what she does, her only desire

is to be of use, inside the hospital is apt to expect to be allowed to undertake responsible nursing duties, and to be instructed how to perform them. The trained nurse, on the other hand, shorthanded, and with her energies concentrated on fulfilling her obligations to the patients in her care, knows that there is no time to teach probationers—probationers, moreover, who, once the war is over, do not contemplate taking up nursing as a profession, or devoting themselves to the care of the sick. We do not believe there is a trained nurse, in one of the hospitals in which war probationers are working, who would not further the desires of any showing an aptitude for nursing if

they wished seriously to take up nursing as a profession. But no one knows better than a trained nurse how a little knowledge of nursing may be a dangerous thing, and she is not inclined to help birds of passage to acquire it. The craftsmen of this country in former days attained their skill, and therefore their reputation, through the system of apprenticeship, by which the apprentice was bound for a term of years to his master, and learnt his trade thoroughly. The profession of nursing is a stern one, demanding long apprenticeship and the whole-hearted devotion of those who practise it. It will not tolerate a divided interest. Those who realize this, and give it the place which it claims, will find that it repays all the de-

vation they can lavish upon it.

Miss Phoebe Mapletoft, of the Registered Nurses' Society, who went out to France last October, has now returned home and is taking a much-needed rest. The greater part of the time she has spent in L'Hôpital Notre Dame de Greves at St. Malo, a hospital of 135 beds, which has received many seriously wounded cases. The hospital was established owing to the enterprise of Mr. Insley and the English colony in St. Malo, the majority of the nurses, as well as the medical staff coming from Bournemouth in the first instance. It was opened first in the Casino in St. Malo, and then moved to a building in lovely country between Paramé and that town. Miss



[Photo]

[Swaine.]

MISS J. E. M. BARBIER, R.R.C., MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES.

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