

NURSING AND THE WAR.

Miss Florence Harley and Miss L. O. Peet, whose portraits are published in this issue, are two of the trained nurses mentioned in despatches by Sir John French, and upon whom the King recently conferred the distinction of the Order of the Royal Red Cross.

Miss Florence Harley, who is a niece of Field Marshal Sir John French, was trained at St. Thomas's Hospital, London, and has held the position of Sister of a Children's Medical and a Women's Medical Ward in the same hospital. She is a member of the Civil Hospitals Reserve.

Miss Peet was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Derby, and a member of its private nursing staff. She went out to France in the early days of the war and has served on a hospital train and in hospitals at Versailles.

Our thanks are due to the editor of *The Ladies' Field* for the portrait of Miss J. E. M. Barbier, R.R.C., from a photograph by Swaine, which we published in our last issue. We regret that our acknowledgments should have been made to another source and desire to express our indebtedness to the courtesy of the above journal.

Some of the Sisters at Malta who have been detailed for duty on hospital ships, receiving the wounded from the Dardanelles, are at present having the experience of getting very near the scene of action, and consequently of being able to care for their patients at the earliest possible moment after their wounds are received. This is as it should be, the risk of infection is minimized, and much suffering avoided when wounds receive skilled treatment as soon as possible.

Besides the satisfaction of the service they are able to render to the wounded, the life on the hospital ships seems to be much appreciated by the Sisters. It is very busy, but everyone desires to work her hardest in these days, therefore it is accepted as the right thing that the only respite between the voyages to and fro from Malta to

Mudros Bay, and as much further as is permitted, is a day or two for replenishing stock. Then on the voyage out the wards are prepared, beds made up, &c., in preparation for the reception of patients—wounded, enteric, and dysenteric. With some 500 of such cases on board the hands of the Sisters are full on the return voyage. The worst cases are landed at Alexandria while others go on to Malta. There are now quite a fleet of hospital ships, and of transports used for this purpose, carrying the wounded between the Dardanelles and Alexandria and Malta as well as

India and Australia, and we may hope, therefore, that so far as may be the sufferings of the brave men wounded, and stricken with disease, in the defence of the Empire are mitigated by the skilled care they receive.

Nursing Sister M. Bullock, describing "Montenegrin Characteristics" in the *Nursing Journal of India* writes:—

"As every man worth the name is a warrior it is hardly a surprise to find the police a wretched set of anæmic creatures. The people of the Black Mountain are a people of a few great vices and splendid virtues. A Montenegrin neither lies nor steals, and cowardice is almost unknown, indeed should he be a coward he has to lead the life of an outcast, his home no longer his to come to, for he could face neither wife nor village again. It is true that he drinks much *kaké*, but very seldom is he drunk. It is also true that his wife is his willing slave,

and will tramp for days bringing his food and blankets, but it is the slavery of devotion to the hero who protects her and the children from the cruel Turk at the risk of his own life, and often at the loss of sleep for many a day. True, he is cruel, more or less, but has he not been educated in that school and ground down for generations by an appallingly cruel enemy. He certainly revenges death with death, after which he is in prison for two or three years on parole. Prisons, as a rule, are not locked up in this country though the murderer may have to wear chains; it is the



Swaine.

MISS L. O. PEET, R.R.C.
MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES.

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