

NURSING AND THE WAR.

Mrs. Phillips, trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, has been appointed Chief Matron in Egypt for the British Red Cross Society. She has done invaluable work, and the success of the Saidieh Hospital at Cairo is largely due to her untiring energy and good organizing ability.

There are a few vacancies for fully-trained nurses at the American Women's beautiful War Hospital, at Paignton, South Devon, concerning which the Matron will give information. Many American nurses paid for by the American Red Cross have now been recalled, owing to the very great cost of keeping a medical and nursing staff in all the belligerent countries.

Miss Phillips, Sister of the Barnet Union Infirmary, has returned to her duties in that Institution after the six months' leave of absence granted her to go out and nurse in the recent outbreak of typhus in Serbia. Her return was welcomed by the staff and Guardians, the latter body expressing at the Board meeting on Thursday last their high appreciation of her enterprise. The Clerk of the Guardians announced that His Majesty's Inspector, Mr. C. F. Rowndell, who had occasion to visit the Union last week, sent to Sister Phillips a special message of approbation, saying he was "proud to have her in his district."

India, which was to demonstrate its disloyalty to the British Raj as soon as war was declared, according to German anticipations—appears to be taking its part, not only in the defence of the Empire, but in its care of sick and wounded. From the Report of the St. George's Hospital Nursing Association, we learn that as many nurses in the employment of the Association wished to volunteer for service with the troops the committee permitted as many as could be spared to do so. At present five are serving at Alexandria, four are engaged on the hospital ship *Madras*, and one as Night Superintendent of the hospital ship *Loyalty*.

We have received the following letter and made enquiry into the case:—

"DEAR MADAM,—When in Red Cross Hospital I often read your excellent journal, and noticed what persistent efforts you have made that us common soldiers [the cream.—ED.] should have the best of nursing. I thank you for it. May I bring my own case to your notice—not that any good can be done for me now, but it may help other poor chaps. During some time warded in a Red Cross Hospital—where intentions were of the best—I was attended by a young woman untrained. She took on herself to dress my hand which had been injured, and which at the operation had been packed with strips of lint. These strips she took out with her fingers, leaving a gaping wound; washed the dirty stuff at a cold water tap, and

put it back again. From that time my hand began going bad, and now I have lost two centre fingers, which the surgeon had hoped to save. From what I now know of infectious wounds, I believe this young lady is to blame as no precautions were taken by her. I do think only thoroughly trained nurses should dress our wounds, and know you will sympathise with my loss."

Our soldiers have run such risks in many hospitals during this war. We sympathise indeed with this injured man, and agree with him that "only trained nurses should dress our wounds" in the absence of the surgeon. The ladies' papers continue to present, week by week, the portraits of young aristocrats and others engaged in nursing our sick and wounded men. In our opinion tampering with the wounds of our soldiers by these ignorant girls should be made a *legal offence*. Nothing else is likely to influence their colossal vanity.

The King and Queen visited the sick and wounded officers at Dover House Hospital, Roehampton, and the sick and wounded soldiers at Gifford House Convalescent Hospital, Roehampton, on the 16th inst. Their Majesties were greatly pleased with both institutions.

The Army Council hope to announce shortly the formation of a central organisation to co-ordinate the work of committees providing comforts and luxuries for the troops. It advises workers to set to work on mufflers and mittens.

NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

The Valedictory Meetings of the Nurses' Missionary League to wish God-speed to members who sail for the Mission Field this year, will be held as usual at University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C., on Friday, October 1st, for which an interesting programme has been arranged under the heading: "Adventure for God: Individual, National, Missionary." There will be morning, and evening sessions, and a conversazione in the afternoon, at which Miss E. E. Overton, and Professor Carless, M.S., F.R.C.S., will preside respectively. The hostesses in the afternoon include, Mrs. E. N. Sharpe, Mrs. A. G. Woodhouse, Miss Heather-Bigg, Matron Charing Cross Hospital, and Miss Plumptre. The addresses will include "The Challenge of the Present Day to a Great Adventure," by the Rev. D. C. Woodhouse, B.D.; "A Vision of the World's Need," by Mrs. Weir (St. Bartholomew's Hospital and Korea); "The Adventure in the Nurses' Missionary Field," Miss Richardson; "The Opportunities of a Nurse in the Mission Field," Mr. J. Howard Cook, M.S., F.R.C.S. (Uganda); "Moving Mountains," by the Rev. Richard Roberts, M.A. The "Sailing Members" will speak. The meeting affords special opportunity for meeting nurses interested in mission work.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)