

## NURSING AND THE WAR.

Miss Janet St. Clair, Q.V.J.I.N., is now in England, enjoying a little rest after arduous work in the Polish Hospital, at Vilna, and in the British Hospital at Petrograd, which is supported by the British Colony in the Russian capital. Miss St. Clair's work has been greatly appreciated in Russia. We are indebted to the editor of the *Lady*, who has courteously lent us the block of Miss St. Clair which appears on the next page.

The *Times* Paris correspondent reports the following story of an English Nurse's devotion:— "A splendid example of devotion has been given by an English nurse, Miss Mary Davies, at the American Hospital at Neuilly, in the course of experiments conducted by Dr. Taylor, bacteriologist of the Imperial Cancer Research, for the cure of gas gangrene. Dr. Taylor, who experimented with guinea pigs, was unable to obtain results which would allow him to apply his conclusions to human beings, as the crucial experiment of inoculating a human being with a pure culture of the bacillus was necessary. There were many cases of gas gangrene, but as these were all complicated by other forms of infection they were of no use for the purpose of experiment. A case of uncomplicated gas gangrene was indispensable for testing his remedy.

Nurse Davies, who had studied bacteriology at the Pasteur Institute, had seen about 200 fatal cases of the disease and had seen guinea pigs die in the course of Dr. Taylor's experiments. Without revealing her intentions she took a room near the hospital, and on Friday Dr. Taylor received a note from her begging him to come at once to make "last experiments." The doctor found that she had given herself an injection of the culture used in the experiments on guinea pigs. Two hours afterwards symptoms of gas gangrene developed. She had furnished the doctor with a pure case of gas gangrene. The doctor injected a quinine preparation with which he had been conducting his experiments and in 24 hours the patient was out of danger. The treatment is now in force in the American Ambulance."

This heroic woman, who is of Welsh origin, is the daughter of Sir Henry Davies, who died about ten years ago, and who was Governor of one of the Indian Provinces.

### NEW ZEALAND VOLUNTEER SISTERS' ASSOCIATION.

Encouraged no doubt by the ease with which untrained women have been able to assume the uniform of trained nurses, and assume authority as superintendents of hospitals and nursing at home, and in France and Flanders, and as nurses still further afield, a few weeks ago many untrained women in New Zealand proposed to form themselves into a "New Zealand Volunteer

Sisterhood Association," of which the following statement of their objects was issued from headquarters:

"(a) The object of the Sisterhood is to organise bodies of sensible and intelligent women to go abroad to nurse and tend the sick and wounded.

"(b) Our work is to clear away the disease and discomfort in the military camps.

"(c) But let no man, officially or unofficially, dare to come between us and our hereditary duty of tending the sick and wounded."

It was said by some that the members of this Association were merely going to act as cooks, or typewriters, or menders of clothes, and that they were not to act as nurses. These duties may, perhaps, be undertaken by the N.Z. Volunteer Sisters, but it is evident from the statement of objects issued from the headquarters at Christchurch, and summarised above, that the Association expected to be employed in actual nursing of the sick in New Zealand and at the Front. Their offer with regard to remuneration was also somewhat ambiguous—for a volunteer corps—namely: "These women will be asked to give up one year of their life for practically no payment at all, for the good of their race and their nation, and on the claims of humanity alone."

But we learn that maintenance will be provided, and a personal allowance to each woman of 10s. per week only. A uniform will also be provided; transport to Egypt or elsewhere; and each woman will be insured against illness, accident and death.

A somewhat costly expenditure for unskilled work!

This movement naturally found little favour with the New Zealand Trained Nurses' Association—who are all highly skilled registered nurses, hundreds of whom are quite ready to render valuable help to sick and wounded soldiers—especially to members of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force at the Front, if reasonable expenses are paid by the Government.

### MISS MELITA JONES ADDRESSES THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH.

In a letter to the Minister of Public Health from Miss J. M. Jones, hon. secretary of the New Zealand Trained Nurses' Association, the position was stated as follows:—"The president (Miss Foote) of the N.Z.T.N.A., has requested me to write, on behalf of the Association, drawing your attention to a movement (originating in Christchurch) to provide unskilled nursing for our troops at the front and in New Zealand. There are many trained nurses in New Zealand who are quite willing, when called upon, to give their services, and should the Government find it impossible to pay the fees they are entitled to, will no doubt endeavour to meet in a patriotic spirit any sacrifice that may be demanded of them. That a body of untrained women should style themselves 'Voluntary Nursing Sisters,' and request patients to address them as 'Sisters' or 'Nurses' when on duty, is, we think, very

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