

### NURSING AND THE WAR.

None of our Allies during the present war have attracted the sympathy of trained nurses to a greater degree than gallant little Serbia, and those who have been able to help to stem the epidemic of typhus which devastated her army early in the year, and to introduce into her hospitals something of the standard of skill and comfort obtaining in our own, count themselves happy. Lately there has been a lull in the admissions, and it has seemed that the worst of her troubles were past, but, with the shifting of the storm centre to the Balkans, once more Serbia is in the forefront of the fray, and her hospitals will, without doubt, be full to overflowing once more. We are sure that, as before, the practical help of British nurses will be at her disposal, and we have confidence that she will emerge from this new peril to receive the admiration of her friends and the respect of her foes.

The following nurses left England on Friday, October 8th, en route for the Wounded Allies Relief Committee's hospital at Kragujevatz, Serbia:—Miss Elizabeth Kennett (late house-keeper at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital), Miss Mary Agnes Buse (late Royal Free Hospital), Miss Elizabeth Ogilvy Rogers, Miss Agnes Richley. This hospital has now been constituted by the Serbian authorities the Third Base hospital for the army and has a capacity of 600 beds.

The following members of the third Serbian Relief Fund Unit for the Stobart Hospital, sailed on October 8th: Dr. Elizabeth Finegan, and Miss F. Cartwright (Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, fever work in Darlington and Glasgow, Sister, Brownlow Hill Infirmary, Liverpool), Mrs. Robinson (General Hospital, Birmingham, plague duty, Aden, private nursing, Bolton), Miss E. Brimson (Stobhill General Hospital, fever work Glasgow and Erith, private nursing London).

In connection with the Scottish Women's Hospital the following trained nurses left England for Serbia on October 8th: Miss Jane Cameron, Miss Cowie, Miss Dinah Levack and Miss Mackintosh.

The City of London Red Cross Hospital, Finsbury Square, E.C., which we recently described in this Journal, admitted its first patients last week. The Matron, Miss G. A. Rogers, is only acting in this capacity temporarily, and her many friends in the nursing world will regret to know that in coming to this decision she is acting on medical advice. She has never quite recovered from an attack of bronchitis last May, and her doctor will not allow her to spend the winter in London. Miss Rogers writes, "I get a good many letters from people who knew about my appointment, and I shall be glad to let some of them know that I am not staying on after this month."

There was a large gathering of Australians, both soldiers and nurses, at the Palace Hotel, Blooms-

bury, on October 6th, including many men who have fought in the Dardanelles, at an entertainment given by the Australian Natives' Association. Amongst the nurses present was Sister Borlase, who was on active service in the South African War, and more recently in Flanders, France, Serbia, and the Dardanelles, and who in a brief appeal urged the necessity for more nursing volunteers. Miss Grace Watson and Mrs. Hucks spoke sympathetically of the work done by Australians during the war. Indeed, we all admire the work of our Australian colleagues, who, with ability and devotion, are nursing the brave wounded, theirs and ours.

Lady Muriel Paget, the hon. organizing secretary of the Anglo-Russian Hospital, was unable to form part of the deputation which proceeded to Russia, to offer formally to the Russian Red Cross authorities the services of the complete hospital unit, which has been raised in this country. Her place was taken by Lady Sybil Grey, the young daughter of Earl Grey. It is, moreover, announced in the press that Lady Sybil Grey will take charge of the hospital at the outset. The Nursing Profession, we think, has a right to know why a young, untrained girl is to be placed in this responsible position, when a very highly trained and experienced woman has been selected as Matron and a staff of twenty-four certificated nurses have been engaged.

The reply to this question will, no doubt, be as usual—that the trained Matron will be in charge of the nursing and the untrained superintendent in charge of the hospital, and that their duties do not clash. Bitter experience proves that it is most difficult to maintain nursing discipline under this system of dual control, and that, when an untrained lady of title—backed by social influence—is placed in supreme authority in a military hospital, disorganization in the nursing department is inevitable. The fact that for some months Lady Sybil Grey has assumed the duties and responsibilities of a Matron of a Voluntary Red Cross Hospital, at her father's seat in Northumberland, will—in our opinion—make the position of the trained staff all the more untenable. Let us hope the Committee of the Anglo-Russian Hospital will consider this defect in its organization before it is too late.

The *Gazette* of the 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, is a most creditable production, and is illustrated in the most amusing manner. "The History of Our Hospital" is begun by the C.O., Lt.-Col. Bruce Porter, to be continued in our next. Miss Barton, Principal Matron, sends a letter, wishing success to the new literary venture, and gives a sketch of the growth of the Territorial Force Nursing Service; she concludes, "I should like to say that my most optimistic hopes for the success of the Hospital—which had so long existed as a castle in the air—have been far more than realised. Not only the ability and skill, but also

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