

### FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

A second splendid gift of 50 feather pillows has been most generously given by J. Bore & Co., of Liverpool, sent to the Hon. Treasurer, in response to Miss Ellison's appeal in the *Daily Telegraph*. This is the second consignment sent, and no gift brings greater comfort to the wounded French soldiers.

The following letter has been received from a Sister at Vittel:—

"I regret to say that my time with the French Flag Nursing Corps is drawing to a close, as I shall have to leave about October 26th, my leave of absence expiring, as I explained before leaving London. I am very sorry, indeed, to think of leaving France and the brave French soldiers, but it cannot be helped. All my life, I have had a feeling of warm regard for the French, which this year's further experience among them has only tended to increase. It will be something to look back upon with pleasure all my life, though pleasure sometimes mixed with sadness—not wonderful, considering the nature of the work.

"Since we came to Vittel three months ago, things have not been very busy, and lately all possible patients have been sent off to make room for newcomers. They have not arrived yet, which makes us very quiet. Although we have not been doing so much lately professionally, we have not been quite idle, as we have had all the more time to interest ourselves in our patients individually, and in trying to bring to them a feeling of home comfort and family life, after all their trying experiences at the Front. Our efforts have, for the most part, been appreciated far beyond what they deserved, for the French are always so grateful. In a letter we received yesterday from an ex-patient, he mentions exactly that that feeling of homelikeness is awaiting where he has gone, and he adds in his own beautiful language: 'Vous avez donné l'illusion de la famille prodigant avec grâce et bonté la douceur des mères, la tendresse des sœurs et le dévouement des épouses.' We feel all the same that we do not deserve this praise, for we have not always reached our ideal.

"I feel I cannot sufficiently admire the brave spirit in which the French are facing the trials of this War; it is most admirable.

"Before closing, I should like to thank you and the Committee for granting me the privilege of coming here for these three months. I know and realise that it was a favour to be allowed to come for this short period, but I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and have done my best to keep up the good name already gained by the nurses of the F.F.N.C. With best thanks."

The French Government has consented to engage Sisters for a period of six months instead of for the whole duration of the War. A holiday of three weeks will then be given to those who sign for a further term of service.

### A QUESTION FOR KITCHENER ANSWERED BY KEOGH.

In our last issue we commented at some length on the friction which arose at the Endsleigh Palace Hospital for Officers, London, owing to the unconstitutional and unethical management of the present committee in its relations to the nursing staff. Briefly:—

(1) Without informing the Matron that any complaint had been made against her to the Committee, the Chairman interviewed her, and told her, practically, that she had been condemned unheard, and that she was to leave next day.

(2) On refusing to do so, the Chairman bargained that if she was given the week's notice which was her legal right, she was to maintain secrecy concerning her discharge and departure.

(3) When the Matron informed the Senior Sisters of her unjust treatment, they, with nearly the whole hospital staff, sent a protest to the committee that, unless this autocratic treatment of the Matron were rectified, they would resign their positions and leave the hospital with her.

On Monday in last week the nursing staff passed a resolution, in which they appealed to the public, through the press, to see that justice was done, as the Endsleigh Palace Hospital for Officers is not a private charity, but is supported in part by State funds, through the War Office.

As the Sisters' resignations were accepted without an opportunity being afforded them of meeting the Committee as a whole, it was decided on Wednesday to hold a meeting of protest, and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President of the National Council of Trained Nurses, was invited to take the chair.

The meeting was held at 431, Oxford Street, at 9 p.m., and nearly every member of the staff who was off duty attended.

The following resolution was proposed by Miss Taylor, and seconded by Miss Hughes.

#### RESOLUTION.

We members of the Nursing Staff of the Endsleigh Palace Hospital for Officers, in meeting assembled, beg to offer our most indignant protest against the manner in which the Committee have attempted to summarily eject the Senior Nursing Officer, Miss Florence Tubbs, without acquainting her with the accusations against her, or affording her an opportunity of self-defence.

We therefore petition, in justice to the whole nursing staff of the hospital, that the Committee shall be required, by the Secretary of State for War, whom we hold is ultimately responsible for the good

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