

*de corps* among us. If each individual nurse would realise that she has a part to play in the uplifting of the profession, if all would take courage from the example of our sisters over the sea, in aiming for the highest standards, professional, educational and ethical, we should be such a force that we could easily achieve more, at least, than we have at present achieved.

In a word, the Convention has been splendid. It has indeed been a privilege and an inspiration to attend its meetings.

BEATRICE KENT.

San Francisco, June 27th.

DEAR EDITOR,—I feel I must send you a line to tell you that the Conference is at an end, and many were the regrets expressed at your absence. Miss Kent and I are laden with affectionate messages to you and Miss Breay, and next to the devotion of the Americans to England as a nation, nothing has touched me more than their sincere admiration for the Founder of the International Council of Nurses, and the work and struggle that you and Miss Breay have carried on for so many years in the interests of the Nursing Profession in England. You told us at starting that we should have a "good time" over here, but the "time" has exceeded our wildest expectations. We have met with the greatest kindness, the warmest, I may say the most affectionate of greetings, and with the most generous of hospitality all along the line.

From the day when we were greeted with the sunshine of Miss Dock's smile on the landing stage at New York, we have felt *absolutely* at home in America, and we are quite depressed at the thought of "moving on" and leaving behind all the kind friends, both American and Canadian, when we start off *en route* for Victoria.

ANNIE E. HULME.

(Representative, Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.)

#### THE ROYAL RED CROSS.

The King held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace on Monday morning, when amongst the decorations conferred the following members of the nursing profession had the honour of receiving the Royal Red Cross:—Miss Phoebe Watt, Miss Catherine Elston, Miss Hannah Reid, Miss Norah Fletcher, Miss Edith Campbell, Miss Gertrude Richards, Miss Ida Greaves, Miss Nellie Adler, Miss Lilian Peet, Miss Isabella Barbier, Miss Annie Ivin, and Miss Edith Jackson. Miss Fletcher and Miss Greaves have now returned to France.

#### MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES.

Sister S. K. Bills, of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, who was recently Mentioned in Despatches, was trained at the General Infirmary, Leeds. From 1900 to 1903, when she joined the Military Nursing Service, she was a member of the Registered Nurses Society, London.

#### NURSING AND THE WAR.

The Queen Mary Hostel for Nurses, 1, Tavistock Place, W.C., for the use of nurses recommended by the Matron-in-Chief, Joint War Committee, which is expecting to receive its first sixteen guests as we go to press, has been adapted from a private hotel, the Committee taking over the contents of the two houses which form it. As the former tenants only vacated the house on the morning of Wednesday, 7th inst., this means that a great deal of hard work has been accomplished in four days under the supervision of the Lady Superintendent, Mrs. Carr Lawson, who certainly commends the Hostel to visitors by her courtesy and charm. The sitting room is a delightful room, prettily papered in a soft tone of French grey, with a green carpet, and when



MISS SARA KATHERINE BILLS.  
Sister, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military  
Nursing Service. Mentioned in Despatches.

a representative of this JOURNAL visited the Hostel, vases of pale pink carnations harmonised admirably with the colour scheme, and the comfortable chairs looked inviting.

In the bedrooms, some of which contain two beds, all the bedsteads are new, and pretty quilts make them attractive. The Hostel is fortunate in having a green vista from the front of the house, and is just opposite the Passmore-Edwards Settlement, where much that interests nurses is going on.

The Hostel is intended as a clearing house for nurses returning from active service, till they can, if they wish, pass on to their own homes, or accept one of the kind invitations, placed with the Lady Superintendent, from hostesses in the country willing to receive them. It is also open to nurses waiting to proceed abroad.

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