

strengthen the *Entente Cordiale* between this country and her Ally.

Not only does the Vicomtesse receive letters from the nurses, but she has had many also from grateful patients. One writing from the Hôpital Temporaire at Besançon sends the warmest thanks of the patients for a beautiful box of chocolates, and a packet of tea, and says that they are very touched that this was a gift from three children, and very appreciative of this delicate attention from "these dear little Allies." He asks that these generous children may be told that those for whom he is writing have, with himself contracted their illness (purulent infectious pleurisy) on the damp and cold ground, that they suffer much, and that they eat their *pralines* in the night, when they find the time long, and think of those who procured them for them. He goes on to express the gratitude of himself and his colleagues to his benefactress, and assures her of their constantly increasing attachment for their friends and Allies the English.

Truly if the work of the Vicomtesse is arduous it has its recompenses. It is a happy thing that in her person, the British Branch of the French Red Cross and the French Flag Nursing Corps, should be so closely united.

A public meeting was held in honour of the late Miss Edith Cavell at the Athenæum, Bordeaux, on December 4th, the birthday of the murdered nurse. It was, we hear, a very impressive ceremony. Places of honour were occupied on the platform by M. Bascou, *Préfet de la Gironde*, M. Gruet, the Mayor of Bordeaux, the English, Serbian and Belgian Consuls, M. Baylet, the President of the Fédération Girondin de la Ligue des Droits de l'homme, and many other public men.

Miss Gregory, the Matron of Talence Hospital, and 34 of the Sisters of the F.F.N.C. attended by special invitation. They wore the outdoor cloaks with caps and white gloves, and, we hear, made a striking and "correct" effect. The military authorities conveyed the Sisters to and from Bordeaux in three large motor-cars, and they were welcomed at the Grand Amphitheatre by the organiser of the meeting, and conducted to seats by the platform, some of the Sisters sitting behind the Chairman on the platform, and after the eloquent speeches, of which the first part of the programme consisted, and in which M. Baylet rendered homage to the devotion of British nurses, they were invited to take the collection, which they did, thus obtaining £20, which was given to the Serbian Consul for the Serbian Relief Fund.

The Sisters were then invited to ascend the platform in a body and sing "God Save the King," which they did with great effect, the audience rising and, heartily supporting our National Anthem.

The second part of the programme consisted of recitations of poems, composed in honour of Miss Cavell, and some exquisite music.

At the termination of the splendid ceremony Miss Gregory thanked M. Baylet for his enthusiastic praise of British nurses, and women, to which he gallantly replied, "*J'ai dit ce que j'en pense.*"

Dr. Anna Hamilton, with some of her highly trained French nurses, was present, also the Matron, and some of the nursing staff of the Tondu Hospital. Both ladies are engaged in work of national importance in training well-educated French women as nurses on Florence Nightingale's system.

The following Sisters will leave London for France on Friday, 17th inst., unless some new regulation prevents their departure:—Miss N. B. Hodgson, cert. St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and Miss B. M. Westermann, cert. East Sussex Hospital, Hastings.

In reply to Miss Grace Ellison's appeal in the *Observer*, magnificent supplies have been received from the St. Marylebone War Hospital Supply Dept., by special direction of Her Royal Highness Princess Henry of Battenberg; from Mrs. Sharp of the Anaesthetics' Emergency Fund 10 large cases containing upwards of £50 worth of drugs and dressings; a hundred pairs of slippers and soft shoes from Mrs. Alfred Paine, of Bedford; and most welcome gifts from a number of kind people of "woollies," shirts and other clothing, of which we shall print a list next week. Thanks to the Croix Rouge Francaise, it is hoped to dispatch these valuable gifts to France at an early date.

Miss Ellison spent a few days in Liverpool last week, and during her visit spoke at several meetings and aroused much interest in the work of the F.F.N.C. The Rev. T. W. Martin was most kind in arranging the meeting at the Crosby Civic League at short notice, and in spite of bad weather a collection of £9 7s. 6d. was taken and promises of goods in kind for the French patients were made. The French Consul at Liverpool wrote, expressing his regret at not being able to attend.

A drawing-room meeting was also arranged by Mrs. Scroggie (sister of Miss Haswell, the Matron-in-Chief). Many of Miss Haswell's old friends came to hear Miss Ellison's account of the work, and a collection of £12 was taken; one of the ladies present offered a feather bed, to make pillows for the wounded; and Mrs. Scroggie is sending consignments of warm garments to France.

A collection was taken by the Rev. S. R. Jenkins at the Seaforth Brotherhood—£3, mostly in pennies, was the result; and Mrs. S. R. Jenkins (Miss Ellison's sister), collected £6 15s. 6d. towards the F.F.N.C. funds—so that people have only to be told of the good work to prove by their generous contributions how much they sympathise with it.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)