

work, at one time having six hospitals for the Serbian sick and wounded under their control. The unit was an independent one, to which Mr. Garrett, Secretary of the Royal Free Hospital, acted as Hon. Secretary; and a small committee kept it provided with supplies and equipment.

Mrs. Dickinson Berry informs us that they treated many medical cases, and also paid much attention to sanitation and preventive care. The Austrians, when they elected to stay in Serbia, and so became prisoners of War, treated them very fairly and showed no animosity—though they believe that, but for the opposition of Great Britain, peace would be signed.

Our illustration shows Mrs. Dickinson Berry, with Sisters Amet and Brock, wearing the Serbian Military Cross awarded them for their services.

Australian Nurses are justly indignant, not only for their own honour, but that the welfare of their sick and wounded men should have been imperilled by the action of the Defence Department in allowing probationer nurses to be appointed to the hospital ship, *Kanowna*. "It is well known," says *Una*, "that there are a great number of fully-trained nurses waiting for appointments who applied at the beginning of the War, and it is naturally very annoying to them to hear that untrained women have been appointed; and, not only that, but are wearing similar uniform to the nurses of the Australian Army Nursing Service, receiving a salary nearly equal to that of staff nurses, and the same allowance for equipment."

The *Australasian Nurses' Journal* says that "about fourteen of these girls were taken—three from Queensland, four from New South Wales, and the remainder from the other States. One of these girls boasted that she had never had an apron on before, and another that she had never taken a temperature. In several cases, they were near relatives of the medical officers on board, which would, surely, in any case, conduce to neither discipline nor harmony."

The nurses, through their professional associations, have protested strongly to the Prime Minister, and received a courteous reply. They "hope that Australia will never again see untrained girls masquerading in the garb of Army nurses."

THE PRICE OF UNSKILLED NURSING.

Extract from a nurse's letter from France :—

"I read the last JOURNAL with the 'Extracts.' The night the JOURNAL arrived one of the Senior Sisters asked me for it—we were all sitting round

the fire—and when she came across 'Nursing is a Dead Art' she said, 'Sisters and girls, listen,' and read it aloud. Of course, the V.A.D.'s did not like it, but, as they all said, every word was absolutely true, but nothing can be done. All the Matrons and Sisters kicked about having all allowances stopped, with the result that only the billeting allowance is withheld, so rumour says. There was a big outcry, as you can imagine, and I believe they wrote to the War Office. Hundreds of the Sisters said they would resign if it were done. We are not sure yet as to the amount we shall be short as we have not signed for February yet, and January was as usual.

Re the V.A.D.'s and what they cost the Government. In this hospital we have ten, and five Sisters, counting the Sister who is acting Matron, and if you reckon up what our pay comes to you



DR. DICKINSON BERRY (seated), WITH SISTERS AMET AND BROCK, WEARING THE SERBIAN MILITARY CROSS.

will see that the untrained draw nearly twice as much public money as we trained nurses do. They were supposed to come out here to work as in England, and release the men for other work, but that is not the case here. We have nursing orderlies qualified in peace time, and their pay is 10s. 6d. per week, free messing, firing, and lodging. They do not get beds or linen, only ground sheets, and two or three blankets on the floor in huts or tents. You can reckon up the difference in cost of the two. An orderly who is not a nursing orderly gets less pay.

I spent five years training, and since I joined Q.A.'s I have been in France doing exactly the same work as V.A.D.'s, and when the Loos battle was on I was making beds while the V.A.D.'s were doing dressings, because the Sister did not like me.

I have been two months in charge of a department here, a position a nursing orderly had before

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