

distinctly day and night, and during my first week here there was so much bombardment going on along the Front I could not sleep. It was like terrible thunder—the nearer sounds from the French guns, that more distant from the German guns. Now I hardly notice these sounds. This being a clearing hospital, as soon as the patients have been operated on and are doing well they are sent to the base. We only keep very serious cases who cannot be moved, and very light cases, who go straight back to the trenches.

"I want a few indiarubber rings, those to be inflated with air, as there is only one in the hospital, and that is being repaired to-day, and I have several patients who greatly need them, as they can not move at all in their beds. One poor fellow was suffering much to-day, so much pain in his back. He has lost one leg, and has a terrible wound in the other. Each movement gives him acute pain. He is decorated with the *Medal Militaire*, but when one sees his face of suffering, and the medal pinned on his shirt, one realises how dearly he has paid for this honour, and how much he has given his beloved country! I take it we are here to see these brave men want for nothing we can procure for them to relieve their pain, so please send me the air cushions. Everyone is most kind to us here, and I am very happy. We sleep in one of the *bâtiments* that is used for storage and administrative purposes, and we are quite comfortable."

Three nice air-cushions and other things have been dispatched to Sister Wadsworth, paid for by the Sick and Wounded French Soldiers' Fund administered by the Committee of the F.F.N.C., and in support of which we are always pleased to receive gifts either in money or kind.

Christmas appears to have been very happily passed at Talence. At 6 a.m. the new English chaplain came out from Bordeaux to take the early celebration for the Sisters. At 10 the Matron and others went to High Mass in the Hospital Chapel, where a fine sermon was preached in beautiful and simple French by a Church dignitary (a "Chanoine") who is mobilised, and is a very intelligent sergeant in the kitchen department in the hospital, and who goes to early market every morning for the provisions. Many of the wards were prettily decorated and the Sisters had little teas and entertainments on their own account in true English fashion. In the evening there was a Christmas dinner, with English plum puddings, made and cooked by the Sisters, and gifts of these were made to the officers' mess, the gentlemen of the housekeeping department, and the cook, all of which we learn were partaken of with due traditional ceremony. Father Christmas was seen in one of the wards with a bandaged face under his beard, and a great deal of shortening in one leg; he, however, distributed his gifts in true military style, as if he were a very jovial general conferring decorations.

### JOINT WAR COMMITTEE.

The following Sisters have been deputed for duty in home hospitals:—

*Farnborough Hill, Farnborough.*—Miss J. S. Hickie.

*V.A.D. Hospital, Broughall Cottage, Whitchurch.*—Miss E. P. Brennan.

*Red Cross Hosp., Ashlawn, Rugby.*—Miss B. William.

*Mulgrave Castle, Whitby.*—Miss E. Cooper.

*Old Hastings House, Hastings.*—Miss C. E. Skinner.

*V.A.D. Hosp., Battenhall Mount, Worcester.*—Miss E. Parkes.

*Wicklow Lodge, Melton Mowbray.*—Miss M. G. Hunter.

*Red Cross Hosp., Tewkesbury.*—Miss A. J. Shoobridge.

*De Walden Court Hosp., Meads Road, Eastbourne.*—Miss E. Nelson.

*Auxiliary Home Hosp., Penarth.*—Miss E. G. Hobbs.

*Dane John Hosp., Canterbury.*—Miss L. Hogarth.

*Red Cross Hosp., The West House, Thirsk.*—Miss M. Davies.

*Overcliffe Hosp., Westcliff-on-Sea.*—Mrs. C. E. Henderson.

*Red Cross Hosp., Henley-on-Thames.*—Miss N. P. Wheeler.

*Highlands Hosp., Shortneath, Farnham.*—Miss C. Addison, Miss M. Laidlaw.

*V.A.D. Hosp., Battle House, Goring.*—Miss E. Collier.

*Red Cross Hosp., Station Rd., Gillingham, Dorset.*—Miss H. Monteith.

*Mount Joy Hosp., Highcliffe, Hants.*—Miss A. M. Fowler.

*Hillsborough Hosp., Harlow, Essex.*—Miss A. W. Bain, Miss L. Shulver.

*Roseneath, Winchmore Hill.*—Miss M. E. James.

*Auxiliary Military Hosp., Buckenham Tofts, Brandon, Norfolk.*—Miss J. Croxford.

*Red Cross Hosp., Hawkstone, Fareham.*—Miss E. Corder.

*Auxiliary Military Hosp., Nethercourt, Ramsgate.*—Miss K. E. Baker.

*V.A.D. Hosp., Waterlooville, Hants.*—Miss H. L. Blackburn.

*Military Hosp., Merstham, Surrey.*—Miss M. A. Macfarlane, Mrs. H. Strong.

*Red Cross Hosp., Felsham Park, St. Leonards.*—Miss L. M. Dowse.

*Yarrow Military Hosp., Broadstairs.*—Miss R. A. James.

*Kempston Hosp., 3, Granville Rd., Eastbourne.*—Mrs. F. M. Price.

### THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN.

Mr. Evelyn Cecil, M.P., on the nomination of Lord Plymouth as Sub-Prior and with the approval of the Grand Prior, the Duke of Connaught, has been appointed Secretary-General of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England in succession to the late Rt. Hon. Sir Claude Macdonald.

Mr. Cecil is a Knight of Grace of the Order.

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