

NURSING AND THE WAR.

Miss Catherine McCarney, whose portrait appears on this page, is a member of the nursing staff of the Canadian Army Medical Corps, and is at present working at Clivedon, Taplow. Miss McCarney was trained at the Sisters' Hospital, Buffalo, and took a postgraduate course with the Victorian Order of Nurses, Montreal, and there held the position of head nurse of the Annex Branch. She received her military training at the Citadel Hospital, Quebec. We are indebted to the courtesy of the Editor of *The Ladies' Field* for this portrait.

A correspondent writes:

Probably never before have the grim and awful realities of this great war been so forcibly thrust upon the minds of the workers in hospitals in the particular part of the battle zone round about Verdun as at the present time.

War news travels somewhat spasmodically in these parts, and in consequence almost before one realised that the gigantic struggle had actually commenced wounded were pouring in, and all wounds of the severest type, the lighter cases being sent direct into the interior.

A phase, almost worse than any we had yet seen, was now before us: wounded transported in cattle trucks where accommodation was inefficient, and often only partially clothed, in some cases one garment and one blanket being the only covering. The fearful nature of the wounds made even necessary and careful movement fraught with great pain to the sufferer.

Ambulances were continually departing and arriving at all hours of the day and night with

their sad, sad burden. Heavy and continuous firing could be heard almost unintermittently. Surgeons and others were working all day and far into the night in wards and theatre and on the ambulances. Hospital life, though still maintaining its calm, could not fail to be marked by a silent gravity and expectant anxiety, with all the added suffering and the continuous shadow of death about.

Still wounded poured in; evacuations were made as rapidly as possible into the interior and every available space again filled. Almost all the

wounds were of the worst character, many quite hopeless from the first. A large number of compound fractures, with much tissue destruction, and unfortunately in many cases infected with rapidly spreading emphysematous gangrene or with the products of osteo-myelitis, becoming generalised.

In many instances the only hope of saving or prolonging life was immediate amputation. Where the upper part of the femur was involved, the femoral artery was dissected and ligated in the groin, and high amputation or disarticulation performed.

Many serious head and trunk wounds had to be dealt with

and perhaps saddest of all, the most fearful cases of burning imaginable, practically every part of the body being involved, the burns of the head and face usually being of the 4th or 5th degree.

For burns of the 1st and 2nd degrees we have found light dressings of wet saline give excellent results; for other degrees, picric acid has answered well. Never, never can we forget the horror of these days on the one hand and on the other the joy and thankfulness that one feels in the pos-



Photo]

MISS CATHERINE McCARNEY.

Bassano.

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