

NURSING AND THE WAR.

On April 11th the King decorated Mrs. Mitchell, of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service with the Royal Red Cross (First-class), and it is with great pleasure that we publish her portrait on page 357. It will be remembered that Mrs. Mitchell was the Matron on the Hospital Ship *Anglia* which struck a mine in the Channel and quickly sank within sight of home. Nurse Rodwell went down with her cot cases and the Matron and Sisters on deck when urged to get into a boat, which had come alongside, would not hear of it, saying: "We have the right to be last this time."

The Army Orders, in relation to the event, issued subsequently, contained the following reference:—"The Army Council desire to place on record their appreciation of the presence of mind and devotion to duty shown by the Royal Army Medical Corps personnel on the occasion of the sinking of the hospital ship *Anglia*, which struck a mine on November 17th, 1915.

"Through the courage and presence of mind of the matron, Mrs. Mitchell, and the devotion of the Nursing Sisters, most of the cot cases were evacuated from the ship. In this work, Lieutenants P. L. T. Bennet and H. W. Hodgson, Royal Army Medical Corps, were conspicuous, and, aided by Privates Darwen and McGuire of the same corps, they succeeded in saving wounded from the lower wards when they were awash and almost submerged."

When the King returned home on the *Anglia* on her previous voyage, after his accident in France, he presented Mrs. Mitchell with a brooch and on hearing that she had lost everything when the ship went down his Majesty sent her another. It is this brooch which she is shown wearing in the photograph taken after the investiture.

The following appointments have been made through the National Union of Trained Nurses:—*Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton*, Miss K. Steen, (Ward Sister); *Red Cross Hospital, Uplands, Winchester*, Miss Dalyell (Sister); *Blundellsands Military Hospital*, Miss A. Jackson (Sister); *Addington Park War Hospital, Croydon*, Miss S. Collins and Miss Lingwood (Staff Nurses).

Miss Sears Brown, a trained nurse, left London on the 12th instant to work at the hospital at Limoges, maintained by the Wounded Allies Relief Committee for the benefit of French wounded soldiers.

A Nurse at the Front writes:—"Limited training alone will not make a nurse, this war has proved that repeatedly. Only constant contact with the sick and suffering can give the seeing eye and the inimitable method and touch for handling maimed and suffering creatures. Apart from the tragedy, I have often been amused to see the look of anxiety almost terror on a man's face when a good, but insufficiently trained, worker has been

told off to attend him, and the poor lady is often equally nervous. Together they make a bad mental environment for each other."

The *South African Nursing Record* reports that the members of the East African Nursing Contingent enjoyed their voyage up the coast. In addition to the ordinary amusements of ship life, they were every morning put through a course of Swedish exercises. At the end of the voyage the officers of the 8th Regiment presented the Matron, Miss McLeish, with a number of valuable feathers as a mark of their appreciation for all she had done to make the voyage pleasant and enjoyable.

Miss V. Stewart, after describing the journey from Zanzibar to Mombasa, *en route* for Nairobi, writes:—

"On arrival at Nairobi headquarters the various formalities of 'reporting ourselves' duly accomplished, the next movement was the one of 'awaiting further orders.' After a few days I was delighted to find myself allotted to Kisumu, an advanced base hospital on a gulf of the great Lake Victoria Nyanza, the source of the Nile, and the connecting link of the Uganda Railway between British East Africa and Uganda.

"Since the beginning of the war, sporadic fighting has taken place on the Lake and its shores. The Germans had an armed tug, which seized the native boats, carrying cargoes of food-stuffs between East Africa and the Uganda posts. We have now a fleet of boats on the Lake. The German boat has been sunk and the chief German posts bombarded and captured. I arrived at Kisumu in time to pack into the hospital train the convalescents from the Bukoba engagement."

Kisumu is a "passing on" station, which means that as soon as the sick and wounded are sufficiently convalescent they are "passed on" to Nairobi for invaliding boards, &c. The European hospital is delightfully situated above the Lake. An airy general ward, officers' ward, non-coms. ward, and small operation ward meet the usual requirements. In times of emergency these are supplemented by tents in the compound, and stretcher beds on the wide verandahs which run round the building. The Indian and native troops are cared for in the large native hospital, a building of which Kisumu is justly proud.

The same journal says:—"We have heard a rumour—but whether it is true or not we cannot say—that V.A.D. members are to be employed in connection with the S.A.M.N.S. We suppose they have got to come and, provided their duties are clearly defined, they can do most excellent service during war time and ease the great strain on our numbers. But it will make the task of the profession much harder, after the war, and our position and theirs will need most careful watching. Up to the present we have escaped this problem which is going to give so much trouble presently to our colleagues at home, but should it be found necessary to employ V.A.D. members in South

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