

## FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

Just as we had gone to press last week the telegram came announcing the safe arrival of the *Pretorian* at Liverpool, with the Canadian Unit of nurses on board, and soon after three in the afternoon they were in London. Four have been guests at Queen Mary's Hostel for Nurses, where they have been most kindly and courteously entertained; the others putting up at an hotel. Miss H. McMurragh, who is in charge of the party, has proved a most businesslike and helpful Supervisor, so that the innumerable formalities in connection with passports, &c.—which we fear our Canadian sisters have found somewhat disconcerting—have been got through with as little trouble as possible. When not trotting round after papers and uniforms, the Sisters have been taken in charge by Miss Hulme and Miss Kent, who have done their best to give them an idea of the greatness of London.

On Thursday evening, thanks to the kindness of the Manager of the Garrick Theatre, the Sisters were invited to see "Where the Rainbow Ends"—a lovely play in which they greatly admired Mavis Yorke as "Will-o'-the-Wisp." On Sunday the majority of the Sisters attended the morning service at Westminster Abbey, they then visited the beautiful Roman Catholic Westminster Cathedral; also they paid a visit to St. Paul's.

On Monday evening the Committee entertained the Unit to dinner at the lively Regent Palace Hotel. The guests were received by Mrs. Murray, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss I. Hutchinson, Dr. Dundas Grant, and Dr. Murray Leslie; Madame Girard, of the Croix Rouge Francaise, represented the President, the Vicomtesse de la Panouse; and Dr. Sydney Beauchamp, of the Croix Rouge was also a guest. A delightful evening was spent in an atmosphere of khaki—enlivened by gay music. After dinner a cordial letter of welcome was read from the President and an invitation was extended to the Sisters to take tea with her on Thursday; invitations were also offered to tea at the Indian Empire Club, and twelve tickets for the Royalty to see "The Man who Stayed at Home," were offered with a most kind letter of invitation from the Manager, Mr. Stanley Le Sage.

Dr. Dundas Grant, at the request of Mrs. Murray, Chairman of the Committee, expressed

on the Committee's behalf, the welcome which they offered to the Canadian Unit. He read to them a letter from the President, Mme. la Vicomtesse de la Panouse, in which she expressed her regret at not being able to be present that evening but sent the assurance of her personal regard which Mme. Girard was to communicate to them on her behalf by word of mouth. In her letter the President offered them a warm welcome at the rooms of the French Red Cross Society and invited them specially to a tea in her own house so that she might have the opportunity of knowing them personally.

Dr. Grant reminded the nurses that the wounded French soldiers called not merely for the ordinary technical assistance which they were so well able to administer, but also that cheerfulness and brightness, to the charm of which the French were perhaps even more susceptible than ourselves.

He pointed to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick as having thrown herself heart and soul into the drudgery, the technicality and even the politics of nursing without sacrificing the womanly graces which had distinguished her through her whole active career, and in that respect he held her up to them as an example and he felt sure it would inspire them in their work to feel that they had spent the evening in the company of the greatest living authority on nursing in all its aspects.

Miss Ellison, as they knew, had really been the originator of the Corps and it was entirely through her great personal influence with the French Ministry of War that it had been established under such favourable conditions.

The great deeds of the Canadian soldiers had aroused the admiration and enthusiasm of all at home here, and the Committee had no doubt that the Canadian nurses who had joined the French Flag Nursing Corps would nobly maintain the great reputation which their fighting brethren had created for the Land of the Maple Leaf.

It was well known that in former days the nursing of the sick and wounded was carried out by the nuns of the religious sisterhoods and that since they had left France there had not been time for the establishment of a corps of trained nurses of the same stamp as we were fortunate in having in this country. It was hoped that well-educated French women would, however, be stimulated by the present circumstances, to take



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