

NURSING AND THE WAR.

The following ladies were on Wednesday, June 7th, decorated by the King with the Royal Red Cross at Buckingham Palace:—Miss Annie Tombe, R.N., New Zealand Nursing Service (First-class); Miss Grace Caulfield, Mrs. Smith, and Miss Beryl Ford, Sisters in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, and Miss Sarah Soames, Sister, Nursing Staff Military and War Hospitals (Second Class).

Sister M. German, of Ashby-de-la-Zouche and Burton-on-Trent, who has been holding the position of Acting Matron, was mentioned in despatches by Sir Ian Hamilton for her work in Gallipoli, and later received the decoration of the Royal Red Cross from His Majesty the King. When the history of the War comes to be written a very illustrious page will be that which relates to the work of the medical and nursing staffs for the sick and wounded in Gallipoli. On sea and on land they cared devotedly for some of the most tragic cases the War has produced, and the recognition of this fine work by the King will be acclaimed by the nursing profession as well deserved.

Those nurses who have been the guests of Queen Mary's Hostel for War Nurses, 1, Tavistock Place, W.C., and its charming Superintendent Mrs. Kerr Lawson, will learn with mingled feelings that it is shortly to be moved to more commodious premises in Bedford Place, close to Bloomsbury Square, for the 1,400 nurses who have spent a week or so within its hospitable walls look back to it as a home. But after all the essence of a home is the woman who makes it, and in the new Hostel Mrs. Kerr Lawson will still be found with a warm welcome for all her guests, whether they come from India, Africa, Australia, Tasmania, Canada, America, Iceland, or nearer home, she has room in her affections for them all, and more, her admiration for the nursing profession as demonstrated to her in the many hundreds of nurses from all over the world who have come under her observation in the Hostel is deep and profound.

Mr. J. Lumsden, Vice Chairman Joint V.A.D. Committee No. 12 Irish District, has compiled

an interesting report for the Joint War Committee of the work of the members in Dublin during the rebellion, and he praises unstintedly the courage and resource of those who tended the wounded. He says:—"Where so much gallantry and bravery were shown it is difficult to pick out those who gave the best service. I have already furnished a report to General Sir John Maxwell, the G.O.C., mentioning the names of certain men and women whose splendid services were beyond all praise. There are, however, amongst our women two or three whose gallantry stands out supremely, and whose leadership and example had a splendid moral effect. These are Mrs. Ella Webb, M.D., and Mrs. Constance Heppell-Marr.

He asks for influence to get these ladies the Royal Red Cross and submits the following particulars of each case:—

MRS. ELLA G. A. WEBB, M.D.—Organised hospitals; cycled through firing line continuously. Visited hospitals all over the City finding out needs. Worked with ambulance wagons.

MRS. CONSTANCE HEPPELL-MARR.—Organised hospital; carried in wounded from streets. Brought supplies through firing line. Rendered First Aid in streets under fire.

But Mr. Lumsden is in error when he writes:—"as yet no Royal Red Cross has been granted to Irish women since the war started."

The King has thought fit to honour several Irish-trained women nurses with this decoration for their skilled services during the war, and as we hear daily of the heroism displayed by trained and untrained

women alike under fire during the rebellion in Dublin, we hope that due consideration will be given in high places to claims for honours before any are selected for decoration.

Soon we shall have in existence more memorials to Edith Cavell than to Florence Nightingale; the martyrdom of the former has aroused the deepest sorrow and indignation. *The Australian Nurses' Journal* publishes a picture of the beautiful house, "Penlee," at Summer Hill, near Sydney, given by Mr. and Mrs. Shaw as a rest-house for Nurses, to be known as the "Edith Cavell Nurses' Home." The Association numbers between four and five thousand members; of these 600 are engaged in military work in Europe and Egypt;



SISTER M. GERMAN, R.R.C.

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