

FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

It is proposed that the following Sisters will leave for France on Friday, Dec. 31st:—Miss Lilian M. Jefferys, cert. Westminster Hospital, London; Miss Annie I. Osler, cert. Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh; and Miss Edith R. Patch, cert. East Sussex Hospital, Hastings.

Since Miss Ellison's return to Paris she has been busily engaged interesting the Ministry in the scheme for the organisation of a School of Nursing for educated young Frenchwomen, which it is proposed to found during the war in a military hospital, to be developed on regular civil lines when peace permits of its development. Great interest is being evinced in the suggestion by influential Frenchwomen.

We have to thank several units for very kind letters and cards from France on Christmas Day. We hope our good wishes reached their destinations in time. Miss Haswell was a welcome guest at Talence for the Christmas season, where we hope the theatricals in French were a great success.

We hope to hear of the safe arrival of the Canadian Unit before our next issue. They are to have a warm welcome when they arrive in London, and will be shown all the sights possible in the short time at their disposal before going to France. Miss Hulme and Miss Kent, recently returned from Canada where they were so kindly received will, with other members of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, act as cicerones—London is a big place to see in a few days.

The workmen of Elswick and Scotswood Ordnance Works, Steel Works, and Engine Works, Newcastle-on-Tyne, have sent with compliments and good wishes, a most useful consignment of goods to Hopital Jules Ferry, Lisieux. Sister Horan writes:—"One case contains games and amusements, another surgical instruments, theatre table and many other useful articles." Lisieux has been in luck's way recently, as half the consignment of bandages and shoes sent from Queen's Mary's Needlework Guild War Hospital Supply was given to Lisieux, and the other half forwarded to Sister Hawkins at Evreux.

We have to thank Miss E. R. Maudling for 6 pairs knitted socks, 4 pairs mits, and 5 beautiful mufflers, and Miss E. Berst, for 2 pairs socks, 1 pair gloves, and 2 mufflers; per Mrs. Jenkins: fine old linen, 1 dozen handkerchiefs, 6 pantry towels, 2 pillow cases, 2 dusters, scented soap, 4 bottles scented and 1 packet cigarettes. Scented soap is highly prized, also cigarettes and tea. Miss Hunt, 9 pillow cases, 2 pairs socks, 2 pairs mittens, 1 woollen scarf, 22 khaki handkerchiefs, 12 arm bandages, 10 rubber bandages, 1 belt, 2 circular rubber cushions, and unbleached calico.

TO GLORIFY A WOMAN.

The eloquent address of M. Léon Baylet, delivered at the Athenæum Municipal, Bordeaux, in honour of Miss Edith Cavell, at which members of the French Flag Nursing Corps represented the British nursing profession, was a masterpiece of eloquence. In the course of it M. Baylet said:—

Before you, Mesdames and Messieurs, gathered here in an ardent crowd, with hearts constricted with an inexpressible emotion which causes our speech to falter, we come to glorify a woman—an Englishwoman—an English nurse, whose simple straightforward life, clear as a radiant spring day, was passed at the bedside of the sick, in the tenements of the poor, a woman who only wished to have as her family the poor, the wounded, the old, the children, those who wept and those who suffered, a woman almost unknown outside her own intimate circle, and whose name suddenly, on the day after her death, and by that death itself, has been carried by Glory far and wide, beyond time and space, to the highest place in the remembrances of mankind.

After thanking many distinguished officials and guests for their presence, M. Baylet said:—Monsieur, the English Consul, you have your place of honour reserved here since we are assembled to honour the immortal memory of an English woman. I salute you, Monsieur the Consul, representative of the great English nation which fights by our side in Flanders, in Artois, in the Dardanelles, at Salonika, in Serbia, and on the high seas, pouring out its blood for the liberty of the nations. Ah, it is in vain that the Germans by their perfidious calumnies try to sow the seeds of suspicion and dissension between France and England. The entente cordiale established by Edward VII has become a fraternal alliance cemented by blood. We are keenly desirous of being your allies, Englishmen. Since to save Belgium, you came to take your place at our side, victory has never been in doubt . . .

It was Florence Nightingale who endowed the rôle of hospital nurse with a nobleness and grandeur unknown till then. This career, until then considered repulsive, inferior, became a career of honour into which the daughters of the aristocracy entered, perhaps to become professional nurses, or perhaps as voluntary workers for some years.

Miss Cavell stands out henceforth as the purest, most accomplished type of Englishwoman, noble, courageous, brave, who thought herself neither the inferior nor the superior of man, but who wished to be his equal; of the Englishwoman who, having no time to create a hearth of her own, took thought with admirable devotion to abolish the miseries of others.

But Miss Cavell does not only personify the Englishwoman—the English nurse; by her martyrdom she personifies women of all countries. In whom shall we find better the incarnation of the rôle played by women since the outbreak of

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