

### NURSING AND THE WAR.

Miss A. B. Baillie, R.R.C., whose portrait we have pleasure in presenting on this page, has been Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Bristol, since 1898, she is at present Principal Matron of the 2nd Southern General Hospital, T.F., and received the Royal Red Cross (First Class) for her services in this connection amongst the New Year's Honours. Miss Baillie was trained at the London Hospital, and before her appointment to Bristol was Matron of the Hospital of St. Cross, Rugby.

Much satisfaction is felt in Leeds by the distinction conferred by the King on Miss E. Steele Innes, Matron of the General Infirmary, and Principal Matron of the 2nd Northern General Hospital (T.F.), in the award to her of the Royal Red Cross (First Class).

When Miss Innes arrived at the Infirmary, after being invested by the King at Buckingham Palace, an enthusiastic reception awaited her. She was met by the resident officers, led by Mr. Flint, the resident surgical officer, and Dr. Bibby, the resident medical officer, and by all the sisters and nurses, who cheered her heartily and escorted her along the main corridors.

The Weekly Board of the Infirmary have also passed a resolution, warmly congratulating Miss Innes on her well-earned honour, and she has received many congratulations from those who are acquainted with her organizing ability and sympathetic care.

Why is it that when women leave this country they so often think it unnecessary to observe the proprieties, and sometimes we must add the decencies of civilised life? The fact is painfully brought home to us by a picture which has been published in more than one of the illustrated papers, representing a doctor in a bath lightly clad in a shirt, while round him stand a group of shameless women in pyjamas, several with their hair down their backs, guffawing and drenching their victim with water. Over the picture are the words, "Help! help, it's cold!" The doctor is given a shower bath," and below the note, "Outnumbered by eight to one the doctor had no chance to escape, and had, in popular parlance, to 'go through it.' The nurses were without mercy or compassion,

and poured cold water over him in addition to scrubbing him with the hardest brushes. The photograph was taken in Serbia."

Our attention has been drawn to this disgraceful picture by several correspondents, one of whom writes: "If this photograph is genuine it is surely imperative that a public inquiry should be made by an authority in the nursing world, as to the training school responsible for such a doctor and such nurses, and Matron-in-Charge.

"These nurses do not appear to have even the excuse of youth, though few young girls in the privacy of their home would indulge in such horse play or exhibit themselves in such attire, and is it possible that any qualified man would permit such behaviour on the part of his nurses?"

"No wonder that the French express astonishment at the un-nurselike appearance of some of

our women—high-heeled shoes, white silk stockings, perfumes, &c.—and that our wounded are not always satisfied with the class of nurse chosen to tend them? It is a scandal that such creatures should be let loose on helpless sick and wounded and allowed to disgrace our country abroad."

It would be interesting to know who selected and sent these women, trained or untrained, to Serbia. The pernicious interference of unprofessional people with nursing affairs since the War began has led to more scandal than it was possible to imagine.

A Canadian nurse in the service of the C.A.M.C., who has lately returned invalided from the

Dardanelles, when seen by a representative of the *Canadian Gazette*, said, in the course of conversation that she had gone out there on August 1st. The hospital to which she belonged was sent to Lemnos. The island was not an ideal spot for a hospital. Water was difficult to get, and conditions were not sanitary, although things improved greatly as time went on. The hospital was in tents, and when the island was visited by a tropical storm, life became very hard indeed.

"All our stores had to come by ship," continued the nurse, "as nothing could be obtained on the island except some figs and tomatoes. And the question of supplies was complicated by the fact that there was no proper landing, and everything had to be brought by boats. At first we had no



Photo.]

[Frank Holmes, Clifton.

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