

The units which have been working in the Balkans are those in the north at Belgrade, which only retired after they had been under heavy fire, and that with Dr. Mereweather at the Eastern Auxiliary Hospital. Mrs. Stobart's party at Kragujevatz, part of which were detached to staff a field hospital which accompanied the Serbian Army, the British Farmers' Hospitals, the staff of the second hospital only leaving Jagodina after the hospital had been shelled, and a nurse wounded, the unit sent by the Wounded Allies Relief Committee. The Scottish Women's Hospitals in charge of Dr. Elsie Inglis and Dr. Alice Hutchison, both apparently remained at their posts, and with Mr. Berry's unit, which is believed to have remained at Vrnjatska Banja, Dr. Aspland and some of the staff of the Wounded Allies' party, and Major Banks, of the British Red Cross unit, are now probably in the enemies' hands. Dr. Clemow, with the unit from Montenegro, made his way to San Giovanni, but the Italian ship which brought so many members of the various units to Brindisi was unable to bring them, so they had to wait for another opportunity, but have now arrived.

Amongst those who have returned with the party escorted by Sir Ralph Paget from San Giovanni to Brindisi whom we have had the pleasure of meeting are two members of the Danish Council of Nurses—Sister Christopherson, trained at the Svenborg Hospital, and afterwards Sister at a private nursing home in Copenhagen, and Sister Bjorun, trained at the Kommune Hospital, Copenhagen, and recently Sister in the Bispejerg Hospital.

These Sisters went out with a Danish Ambulance last July, the party consisting of five doctors, and seventeen nurses, who went to Serbia at the request of the Government to nurse in Serbian Hospitals. They stayed in Nish for a week and then formed part of a unit of a doctor and four Sisters sent to Kragujevatz to work in the old Serbian Hospital, with a Serbian doctor and two Austrian doctors (prisoners). They also had Austrian orderlies. The lesson was brought home to the Sisters that an Ambulance giving assistance to a foreign country in war time should take out its own equipment as was done by the English missions, as they were much handicapped by the need for appliances and medical comforts. They referred to the terrible bedsores they had seen which added greatly to the sufferings of the patients, and were even the cause of death. In some instances they were of enormous size, and gangrenous, such as nurses never see in ordinary hospital or private experience.

On October 1st, they left the Serbian Hospital, and joined the Stobart Hospital in Kragujevatz, in the New Barracks, where Dr. May was Medical Director, the capacity of which was 500 beds. Mrs. Stobart they did not see as she had gone off with a field ambulance. They stayed here for three weeks, working night and day as the wounded poured in. They then had orders from the medical chief of the head military quarters

that they must leave as the Germans were approaching, though, said Sister Bjorun, they did not at first understand the urgency of the position, and what was involved. The first party left on October 22nd and the last on October 25th. A Serbian gentleman, Professor Tchurcin, a Doctor of Philosophy was deputed by the Serbian Government to travel with the party consisting of about 30 persons—medical men and women, nurses, orderlies, and cooks—and to see them out of the country, and his help and kindness were of the greatest value.

From that time onwards their story is one of hardship and risks, cheerfully endured, and heroically met, as they were moved on from one halting place to another by the direct orders of the medical chief at the head military quarters. They left Kragujevatz on October 22nd, and it was not until the middle of December that they reached San Giovanni and boarded the steamboat which brought them to Brindisi. Sometimes they slept under cover, as in a monastery at Studenitza, a most lovely place in the mountains, where, during the night they heard the Serbian Army, retreating from Kralievo, go by. They had to go on early the next morning, leaving the greater part of their stores at the monastery. Sometimes they camped in the open, in pouring rain, and another time were drenched in a blizzard, so that they were compelled to take off most of their wet clothes and wrap themselves in damp blankets. Over the icy passes of one range of mountains and down into the valley, only to climb another range, washing in icy streams at 5 o'clock in the morning, seeing pack horses struggling in the torrents, or perhaps falling over a pass into the ravine below, living on two meals a day, consisting for the most part of tea without milk or sugar, and maize or black bread, travelling in blouses, hoods, putties, and gloves which they fashioned out of blankets, hurried on because only five miles separated them from the Bulgarian front—at last they arrived at Podjoritza on December 11th, where they slept twelve in a room, where there were beds with sheets, six in the beds and six on the floor, and so to Scutari, where the British Consul came to greet them, and on to San Giovanni and the steamer.

Talking to these Sisters in a comfortable London room and listening to the story of their distressful journey, told in the simplest way, it seemed almost impossible to realise that within the last few weeks they had been climbing icy mountains in the Balkans, living on the meagrest rations, with Albanian bullets whizzing along the path they were traversing. But we may be proud that nurses have proved that they possess the pluck and grit which enabled them to win through.

We regret to learn that one Sister was seriously wounded in a shooting affray on the mountains and was carried to a Serbian hospital, and left in Mitrovitza in a very critical condition, two doctors and a nurse remaining with her, and Dr. May also stayed with a nurse left in a hospital in Rome as she was not fit for the journey to England.

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