

Doubtless there are noble exceptions, but speaking as a rule, to quote the words of an eminent novelist, writing to me on the subject, 'these little minds, clothed in brief authority, have used that authority in such a way that at the end of the War the trained nurse will find herself generally discredited.'

"I will quote one statement made to me: 'We—that is, the trained nurses—take care to teach the V.A.D.s nothing.'

"The most perfunctory inquiry among the Red Cross hospitals will demonstrate that this is not an isolated case of spitefulness. It generally requires some specific event to bring dissatisfaction to a head. The treatment of the V.A.D.s has been the proverbial last straw, but the resentment caused by the trained nurses was simmering long before the War. Then the majority of us were helpless through ignorance. Now, when at least one-third of the finest women of the country, drawn from all classes, know something of what the surgical ward, the pneumonia ward, the theatre itself, entail the case is altered.

"The trained nurse must either improve her ways or go under. It is up to us members of the Red Cross to see that the tyranny which made a nurse so often an aggravation of illness does not occur again."

We wonder what the trained nurse has to say in reply.

We have often pointed out that the work of a British nurse in French military hospitals under the direction of French military medical officers, and where conditions are so different to those obtaining in English military hospitals, is one of very great difficulty and requiring the utmost skill and tact, and when it was first proposed to organize the French Flag Nursing Corps under these conditions we were told it was a hopeless task. The two years' work of this Corps in France has anyway disproved this pessimistic view, although the difficulties remain; and it is exceedingly creditable to so many of the Sisters that they have succeeded in spite of such difficulties.

Now Australia proposes to help our French

Allies in the same way, and twenty nurses, a gift to the French Government from the New South Wales Branch of the Red Cross Society, which has equipped and will maintain the nurses in France, left Australia on July 4th on the hospital ship *Kanowna* for Europe. The Australian Jockey Club, with truly patriotic spirit, has offered to maintain the twenty nurses for six months, a matter of £1,560. The Lismore Branch of the Red Cross has given £150.

The following are the nurses selected, all of whom are members of the Australasian Trained Nurses Association, and are provided with their registration certificates and the badge of silver

and dark blue enamel: Mrs. Elsie Cook, Miss N. Weston Crommelin, Miss Lynette E. Crozier, Miss Dorothy E. Duffy, Miss Alice F. Gray, Miss Fanny M. Harris, Miss Winifred Hough, Miss Susan Hughes, Miss Ruby Hungerford, Miss Jessie T. Hutchinson, Miss Annie Jamieson, Miss Hilda Laxton, Mrs. Jessie McKillop, Miss Ida J. Moreton, Miss Olive H. Norman, Miss Alice E. Robinson, Miss Grace Sheridan, Miss Lilian F. Thompson, Miss Helen S. Wallace, and Miss Elfrida Warner.

In addition to the nurses, Miss Hamilton Moore, masseuse (a registered member of the Australian Massage Association), has been sent to France, and as it was impossible to secure nurses who spoke French, Mlle. Niau accompanied the nurses to England to give them instruction on the voyage. But

the only plan by which "grown ups" who know not French can obtain a working use of the tongue is to study it assiduously when amongst the people, and this no doubt the Australian nurses will recognise as a duty to their patients.

A departure has been made, says the *Australian Nurses' Journal*, from the well-known uniform of the nurses, with a view to doing away with the cape coats and obviating the necessity of wearing any outer coat, unless, of course, the weather should demand it. As these nurses are not permitted to wear anything approaching the military uniform in colour, the Red Cross Society has



MISS MABEL PACKHAM,
Who has been rescued after being a prisoner with the
Germans in East Africa for two years.

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