

a week, or 3s. a day, for patients in such hospitals? We believe this subsidy is usually paid. (4) "Is there any rule as to the sanitary arrangements, as to the number of baths and lavatories? The hospital in question has one w.c. and one bath for 50 soldiers." We believe the War Office inspects these V.A.D. hospitals before they are accepted; but we know of numbers where the lavatory accommodation is terribly inadequate. To put it baldly, suppose each man is allowed the use of the lavatory for five minutes daily, this particular cabinet would be in continuous use for five hours daily. Imagine the disgusting inconvenience and injury to health which might result from lack of accommodation! (5) "Can an absolutely unqualified woman take charge of the kitchen arrangements wearing a V.A.D. uniform, although she has no certificates of any sort, and could not get them as she is quite illiterate?" Cooks, porters, and laundrymaids may wear nursing uniform (V.A.D.) if they are members, and it is like charity, it covers a multitude of sins. A trained nurse may not infringe V.A.D. "nursing" uniform, even if worn by a cook, as it is a punishable offence, with or without hard labour! Gilbert and Sullivan could alone do justice to such a legal ambiguity. (6) "Can a woman be a Commandant although she may have failed twice to pass the very easy First Aid and Home Nursing exams., which were merely oral, with one example of simple bandaging?" This situation under existing circumstances is like Niagara, "we see now to stop it." (7) "Are there no rules as to hours on duty for V.A.D.'s—one day there were eight, on another only one, and so on, and so on?"

We quote these enquiries from an earnest, patriotic woman, just to suggest to the "Supply Committee" a few reasons for "shortage." There are heaps more. All the result of an indefensible system. They will have to find courage to tackle the present system, and make drastic recommendations for its reform if the supply of trained nurses is to increase. Only just conditions will tend to improve the situation. As we have said before, the untrained Commandant must go.

The Rev. G. E. Farran, D.D., Vicar of Holy Innocents' Church, Kingsbury, writing from a hospital in France to the Parish Magazine, says: "I had an interesting piece of work the other day in taking a party of patients who were being 'evacuated,' i.e., discharged to England. It is the great wish of every patient to be marked 'for Blighty.' Most of them are on stretchers, but are in a very different state from when they came to us."

After describing an ambulance train—a "wonderful affair," staffed with doctors and trained nurses—which some of his readers may have seen in London, Dr. Farran says:—

"When we arrived, our stretcher-cases were gently lifted from the ambulances and then slung into place in the coach. The ward looks like a cabin on a ship, with the stretchers hung in four tiers on each side—a broad passage between

them. The walking cases are put into what look like ordinary first-class coaches." He continues:—

"A rather touching incident occurred here the other day. One of the patients—an Australian—died. He had been telling the Sister of his ward about his wife and his little girl at home in Australia, and that he specially wanted to send a French doll to his little child. After he was dead the nurse went out and bought a doll and sent it to the child, so that the father's dying wish might be fulfilled. This is only a little story, but it just shows the spirit in which our nurses take their work. When the history of this War comes to be written, none, however much they may try, will ever be able to do justice to our nurses; and their devotion to their work is marvellous. No other country can show anything equal to the members of our English nursing staff in their professional capacity. But, in addition to all this, they bring an amount of gentle sympathy which cannot be described, but which gives to the patients almost as much as their skilful nursing."

### FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

Sisters Scott, Gill and Geekie all need hospital comforts for their patients, but as the Corps is waiting to be registered under the War Charities Act, we do not know if we shall be sent to durance vile if we dare to mention them. Anyway, we will risk making mention of the need of rubber water bags, as if the toes of the wounded are as cold as our own, we prefer to pay the price rather than that they should continue to suffer. Thanks to our kind President, we hope the supplies required by the Sisters will soon reach them. Warm socks, woollen shirts, mufflers, mits, and hot water bottles and bags are greatly needed as winter creeps on.

We have to thank Mrs. Paine, of Bedford, for a most generous supply of slippers and flannel boots, which have been forwarded to France. Mrs. Paine and her indefatigable helpers have now sent out 16,000 pairs of slippers for sick soldiers' use—a splendid record, considering how well they are made.

### ITALY PAYS HOMAGE TO EDITH CAVELL.

The *Tribune*, commemorating the anniversary of the murder of Miss Edith Cavell, urges the Italian Red Cross to imitate Paris in founding a hospital school for nurses to be called after Miss Cavell. A commemoration of the anniversary of the execution was held in the Nicolini Theatre at Florence last Sunday.

### THE IMPERIAL NURSES' CLUB.

It was announced on October 12th, in making an appeal for funds, that on the "anniversary of the death of an heroic nurse, Edith Cavell, the Imperial Nurses' Club had been established as a token of gratitude to our brave nurses."

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