

As our readers are aware, the training of cottage nurses usually consists of experience amongst the poor in their cottage homes, maternity work being the chief need. Nothing need surprise the nursing profession in these sad times, but that our heroes are to be subjected to the ministrations of "cottage nurses" when warded in hospitals is the limit. We wonder what "War Office Committee" is prepared to subject them, when sick and wounded, to the care of women who are not "trained" nurses in the ordinarily accepted sense of the word, and are recruited from a class whose general standard of education is most elementary.

Nurses who have been working in Egypt this summer have endured intense heat, but now the mornings and evenings are delightfully cool. The Nile has risen higher this year than it has for twenty years, flooding miles and miles of cultivated land, as can be seen from a snapshot reproduced on page 404. The group of native women are going to the river to fetch water, and are very picturesque. We learn "that the mosquitoes are simply dreadful; they even manage to bite through two pairs of stockings." Several nurses we know who have worked hard in Egypt throughout the summer are quite well in spite of climate and "fussy fiswigs" (a variety of winged beasts).

The Commissioner for the Joint War Committee at Salonica incidentally in his report for October gives a peep at what is being done for the sisters. He writes that the Nursing Sisters' Convalescent Home is running splendidly under the able control of Miss Stephenson, V.A.D., assisted by two V.A.D. ladies.

Sixty convalescent sisters passed through the home in September.

It is pleasant to report that there has not been one single exception to the general expressions of appreciation.

One Matron writes to the Lady Superintendent: "I am very much indebted to you for all the care you are taking of my nurses. The Home is a great boon, and the sisters are all full of your kind thought and care for them."

Another Matron writes:—"I get such glowing accounts from all my sisters of the Home, that I am longing to come there myself. It is so nice to think that the sisters have such a place to go, because all mine are very seedy."

The sisters speak of the "luxury of sleeping in a house again, undisturbed by wind or rain or flapping tents, and the joy of having breakfast at

8.30 a.m., or in bed if necessary! The good food and pleasant garden make the Home just ideal."

The unceasing labour on behalf of the Belgian Army of their heroic Queen Elisabeth during the past two years, has made her a national saint, and "Our Lady of Belgium," by Lea Laurent, translated from the French by Elizabeth M. Lockwood, is an eloquent biography of the Queen of the Belgians, who had a varied and interesting life before the great tragedy. Mlle. Laurent gives a pleasant account of Queen Elisabeth's happy childhood and girlhood, as the chosen friend and companion of her father, Duke Charles Theodore, who, as is well known, made a serious life-long study of medicine. Many nurses have met the Queen at La Panne and elsewhere, and will learn something of her life before the war, as happy Queen, wife and mother, and will hope to see her kingdom and happiness restored to her. To be the wife of so noble a man as the King of the Belgians is no mean fate, even in exile.

Our Roll of Honour in the present war is steadily increasing. This week our portrait is of the late Miss M. A. Russell, whose death from an illness contracted while on military duty we have already chronicled. Miss Russell was a school nurse on the staff of the London County Council till called up for active service.

A great congregation assembled last Sunday evening at the Brighton Parish Church to hear the Rev. H. Ross, vicar of St.

Bartholomew's on the occasion of the annual service for doctors and nurses in Brighton and Hove. A very large proportion of those present were doctors and nurses. The Archdeacon of Hastings prayed for our doctors and nurses, and offered humble thanksgiving for the many noble examples of self-sacrifice which they have given during the war. Prayers were also said for the sick and suffering and the wounded, and for all who are ministering to them. Mr. Ross preached from the first Lesson: "For they shall also pray unto the Lord that He would prosper that which they give for ease and remedy to prolong life"; and in his animated, eloquent and fervent manner he extolled the great art of healing, and said we placed our doctors and nurses among the most important factors of universal usefulness and beneficence. "Never have we had more cause to bless God for them than now. Never were doctors and nurses so prayed for as now. He did not hesitate to say that the healing by them, accompanied by



THE LATE MISS M. A. RUSSELL.

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