

## FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

We heartily congratulate Miss Haswell, Matron-in-Chief, Supervisors Barlow, Conway-Gordon, and C. Mitchell; and Sisters Carmichael, Gill, Burn, Hallam, Willetts, Macauley, Richards, Mann, Mooney, Hendrie, Bennett, Simpson, and A. MacKinnon, upon completing two years' service with the French Flag Nursing Corps, and that next month Supervisors M. Sutton and Stuart Nairne, and Sister Park will also have completed a like term of service. Only the Sisters themselves and the Committee can realise how much power of initiative, tact, common-sense, and sympathy have been required to win the success and appreciation which has crowned the work of them all. Miss Ellison said when she entered upon the difficult task of inaugurating the Corps, that it was easy in comparison for well-trained nurses to work successfully in Anglo-French Hospitals, where the English took their own habits and customs and fine organisation along, but to succeed in French Military Hospitals required even a higher sense of duty and power of initiative. All the Sisters who have won such high commendation from French *médecin-chefs*, by their fine standard of work and conduct, and established the F.F.N.C. on so high a level in so short a time, are worthy of the warmest congratulations, and THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is happy to bear witness to their success.

The regulation which permits three weeks' holiday at the end of each six months is a popular one, as a sight of "Blighty" is eagerly longed for even by the most enthusiastic Sisters on foreign service, and quite a number of the Corps have been home for rest, and a good bracing. Passing to and fro through London, they have found Queen Mary's Hostel a delightful *pied-à-terre*. There a charming welcome is always forthcoming for every guest, and the Sisters are warm in their praise of the homelike hospitality.

Recently after their long journey from Grasse, Sisters Hitchcock and Lind spent a few days in London before sailing to New Zealand, the former stayed at the Hostel, whilst Sister Lind was most kindly cared for at the Waterloo Hospital for Children and Women, where nothing could exceed the attention she received from the Matron, Miss Hilday, and the nursing staff. After her long and serious illness, she returned to New Zealand on the transport *Mahema*, on which she was given the beautiful cabin used by Miss M. Thurston, Matron-in-Chief New Zealand Expeditionary Force when she travelled over, and who most kindly saw the Sisters safely on board at Southampton. The Committee have expressed their special appreciation of the work of Sisters Hitchcock and Lind (both until recently members of the Registered Nurses' Society) in letters which we have no doubt they will value as recognition of the part they have played in alleviating suffering in the Great War.

It is to be hoped the action of the War Office will not in the future prevent the services of

trained British Nurses being available in France. On August 16th, the following letter was sent to the Secretary of the British Red Cross Society, the Anglo-French Committee of which has been empowered to issue Anglo-French certificates, without which passports to France are apparently useless, although in France the certificate is not obligatory, nor does it supersede the necessary documents from the French War Office.

WAR OFFICE,

August 16th, 1916.

SIR,—I am commanded by the Army Council to inform you that owing to the very great demands that are being made upon the resources of the country in medical men and nurses, it will not be possible henceforth for the Council to consent to any members of the medical and nursing professions proceeding abroad for service with the Allies. Members of these professions should either take service with the Royal Army Medical Corps or Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve, or remain at their civil duties.

The Council direct me to say that this decision has been arrived at owing to the imperative necessity of adequately providing for the care of the sick and wounded of the British Army.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) B. B. CUBITT.

The Secretary

British Red Cross Society.

No one will dispute that our own splendid troops have the first call on the services of British nurses, and we believe they have been offered in a whole-hearted manner, often under the greatest discouragement from high quarters, but that real active service at the Front should be denied to a limited number of British Nurses with the Allies, and that thousands of untrained girls and women should be permitted to flock to France and there undertake work for the sick and wounded which should be the reward of training, skill, and merit, has naturally produced a very strong feeling of resentment throughout the nursing profession.

## JOINT WAR COMMITTEE.

The following Sisters have been deputed to duty abroad:—

*La Panne*.—Miss H. Watson and Miss G. Kemp.  
*Boulogne Headquarters*.—Miss I. Sheard and Miss O. D. Pakenham.

*Liverpool Merchants Mobile Hospital, Etaples*.—Miss O. Macandie.

*Duchess of Sutherland's Hospital, Calais*.—Miss E. Scally.

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

We regret that none of the papers sent in this week have attained the standard which merits the award of a prize.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)